

THE INKWELL

Bradford Landmark Society Newsletter

January 2016

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Located at:

45 E. Corydon Street

Welcome to the first Inkwell newsletter of 2016. It's a Leap Year, so one more day this year to learn about history. Leap Year adds an extra day to the end of February—and for those born on the 29th of February, they finally get a birthday cake on the 'right' day.

This newsletter has a theme—the passage of time. As you may remember, the Landmark tries to keep track of all the businesses that opened, closed, or relocated during the past year in the Bradford area. We found plenty of them this year, and you'll agree that Bradford seems to be booming!

And we've included an article on Bradford's birth and death records. Most people don't realize that city hall was responsible for keeping these records from 1893 to 1905. They are tucked away in a vault in one of the offices. We began scanning the actual certificates and ledgers about 2 years ago—fascinating stuff, really. Someday, I'd love to do an analysis of those records. They are filled with information on where people originated from, their occupations, how many children they had, what they died from, who they married, where they lived, etc. Truly gives a snapshot of what Bradford was like in those years.



The Terminal Building, on the corner of South Avenue and Chautauqua Place, soon to be demolished. This photo was taken in 1941.

In This Issue

- Birth & Death Project
- Open & Closed 2015
- Membership Drive
- 100 Years Ago



OPENED AND CLOSED 2015

Every year, the Landmark keeps track of businesses and stores that have opened for business, moved to a new location, or sadly closed in the past year. No matter what the reason, they all made history in 2015. Here are the names of those that we noted in alphabetical order. If there are any that we missed we are sorry.

A new four-way intersection at Foster Brook Boulevard and East Main Street, leading into the mall property, near Taco Bell was opened in November.

A Slice of the 80s at 19 Congress Street, opened in March and offers pizza, subs, wings, salads, etc. and features décor from the 1980s era.

A Whole Latte Love Café at 34 South Avenue which opened in April, moved to the old Congress Street diner in December 2015.

Acme Ammo, at 10 Derrick Road opened in September. Owned by Dale Phillips.

Aerial Imaging Services, a drone photography business operated by Nate Bottorf, was initiated in November 2014, and received its drone license in March 2015.

Aud Restaurant and Espresso Bar at 30 Boylston Street closed in early fall.

Beefeaters Restaurant was purchased by Todd Hennard in February 2015. A nightclub, called "Afterwards" has opened in the lower level.

Blue Print Auto Body Shop at 156 Seaward Avenue business opened in July 2015.

Bradford Notary, LLC, also at 10 Derrick Road, opened in September.

Bradford Radio Group (including Hot FM 95.3 and 99.3, Bob 103.9 FM Hometown Country, and the Mountain 106.3 FM) at 53 Main St. was up and running by September.

Chef 117. Specializing in breakfast and lunch, this new restaurant and catering by Justin Work is located at – surprise! – 117 Main Street. It opened in October.

Corydon Hotel was closed in August.

Cow Palace in Limestone, a long time restaurant and ice cream parlor, closed in November.

Dunham Sports at the Bradford Mall, opened in July.

East End Service Station was purchased by Fairway Ford in September and demolished shortly thereafter.

Farm Family Restaurant on East Main Street opened again in March 2015; closed in November.

Fresh Vapes, a vape shop and lounge for those interested in quitting smoking, opened at 21 B Main Street on August 1.

Goodwill Industries built a new store on the Walmart access road, and opened in November.

Kelly's Restaurant, at 27 Main Street, closed its Bradford location in April, and moved to the Kane Country Club. It had been a part of Main Street since 2009.

Lang & Hvizdzak, PLLC. Dan Lang and Sean Hvizdzak opened their law office on May 1. Their office is located at 52 Davis Street, Suite 2.

Little Power Shop moved to Custer City in January 2015.

Mattress City Sleep Shop at 1030 E. Main Street announced that it was closing in November.

Michaels Cabin, a small, log cabin type restaurant, opened in Limestone, NY at 1020 Route 219 in June.

Our Renna's. A new – and delicious – pizza shop at 444 East Main Street opened in June.

PA/NY Indoor Flea Market which opened in February 2014 at the site of the former Parkview Supermarket on West Washington Street closed in September.

Prestige Awards & Jewelry (formerly Smith's Awards and Jewelry) relocated in October to 44 Main Street.

Sam's Place, at 89 Main Street, the former Main Street Broaster, opened for business in September.

Santo Vida, a natural wellness center, opened in April at 86 Main Street.

Shults Toyota at 880 E. Main Street expanded, renovated, and opened their new facility in July.

Speed Trap Restaurant, which opened in 2014 at the site of the former Rock 'N Rick's nightclub on Spittler Lane in Limestone, closed in early summer.

Taco Bell, at the Bradford Mall, opened to hungry customers in November.

Team Minard Productions, which opened in August at 94 Main Street does screen printing, including banners, shirts and bags.

The Asbury church at 385 E. Main St., will open a warming shelter — called “16 Degrees and Below” for anyone without shelter during cold nights this winter.

The Ho-Sta-Gah Restaurant on Rock City hill, closed in September.

The Willows Restaurant closed in August.

Togi's Playhouse at 18 Welch Avenue, operated by Bradford Little Theater, moved into their new theater location in August.

Tuna Valley Towing moved to their new address on 164 East Main Street, in the old General Roofing building in May.

Turn and Burn Café, at 1001 East Main Street, closed in mid-summer.

Universal Well Services, closed down in August.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION:

Hull Electric will be moving to a new location on North Kendall Avenue in 2016. Renovations and remodeling is currently underway.

The Kinzua Bridge Visitors Center is still under construction but latest photos show that it's really progressing and should be open this spring or early summer.

Several new houses are being built in the city, including a single family and duplex on Elm and Congress Street; and another house at the top of Mechanic, on the site of the old Third Ward School.

Birth & Death on Record

For those researching their family tree, the actual birth and death records of their parents, grandparents, and other family members are the greatest piece of genealogical information that can be obtained. These are called vital records, and the information contained in these records can often help trace a generation back in time even further. But it can be difficult if not impossible in some cases to find such a record. It all depends on the dates of birth and death.

In Pennsylvania, for information before 1893, genealogical research must depend on church and bible records, census records, grave headstones, newspapers, military records, obituaries, and naturalization records.

Beginning in 1893, however, Pennsylvania counties were required by law to record births within their jurisdiction. These were – and are – kept in county seats, usually in the Clerk of the Orphans Court. Some PA cities, especially the larger cities, and luckily, Bradford, kept their own records. In Bradford, birth and death records for the period 1893 to 1905 are kept in a vault in City Hall.

Judy Shick, local genealogist, created an index of these birth and death records several years ago but we always wondered if there was more information available. It turned out that there was!

So, eventually, with the permission of City Hall, the Landmark Society decided to scan the ledgers and the actual paper certificates to create permanent, digital files of these vital records. We've been at it ever since. It's

BOARD OF HEALTH, CITY OF BRADFORD, COUNTY OF McKEAN, STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.		81 65- 33
The Special Attention of Physicians is respectfully invited to the Remarks below and the List of Diseases on the back of this Certificate.		
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.		
To the Secretary or Health Officer of Bradford, Pa.		No. _____
Permit No. _____		
Date of Death <u>Dec 21st 1894</u>		
Full Name of Deceased <u>Mrs E. Abbott</u>		
Sex <u>Male</u>		
Age <u>33</u> Years <u>4</u> Months _____ Days _____		
Married, <u>Single</u> Widow Widower (Check out the words not required in this line)		
Occupation <u>R. R. Fireman</u>		
Birthplace <u>Ill. State</u>		
Duration of Residence in Bradford <u>1 year</u>		
Nativity of Father _____		Nativity of Mother _____
When a Minor { Name of Father _____ Name of Mother _____		
Place of Death { Give Street and Number <u>Buffalo St Residence 71 Congress St</u>		
Cause of Death { First, (Predisposing.) _____ Second, (Immediate.) <u>Was crushed through breast</u>		
Duration of Last Sickness _____		
All of the above information should be furnished by the Physician. In case of death by contagious disease, please state what, if any, local cause exists to produce the same.		
Place of Burial <u>St. Paul Cemetery</u>		
Date of Burial <u>December 24, 1894</u>		M. D.
Undertaker <u>E. J. Lane</u>		
Place of Business <u>4. Boylston St</u>		Address _____
Every undertaker who may have charge of the funeral of any dead person, shall procure a properly filled out certificate of the death and its probable cause, in accordance with the form prescribed by the Board of Health, and shall present the same to the Secretary or Health Officer of the Board of Health, and obtain a burial or transit permit thereupon, at least twenty-four hours before the time appointed for such funeral; and he shall not remove any dead body until such burial or transit permit shall have been procured, and have blank properly filled out.		

a monumental task – we now have completed scanning and indexing the ledgers and actual death certificates (over 2400 of them!) The scanning of the birth certificates is an ongoing project.

Here is a sample of a Bradford death record. This one is easily read – however, there are many with handwriting so awful that it takes a real effort to decipher the names!

As you can see, there is lots of information to be gained from a typical death record. This one dated December 21, 1898, records the death of Thomas E. Abbott, a male, age 33 years and 4 months, who died when he was “crushed through breast”. Since he was a railroad flagman, it is logical to assume that he was injured while at work on a railroad.

The record gives his birthplace, how long he has lived in Bradford, and the names of his parents, if known.

It also lists the place and date of burial and the names of the undertaker and the attending doctor.

Such information can be priceless to a family tree researcher. And the birth records, while not as in-depth, as just as fascinating reading.

Here is a typical Bradford birth record. And note: for the most part, all birth that we are scanning took place inside the city limits – births in the Bradford Township and Foster Township were recorded in the county courthouse.

ewb **STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF McKEAN, CITY OF BRADFORD.**

BIRTH RETURN. ✓

(In full when possible.)

1. Name of Child *Johnston*

2. Sex *Male* Color or Race, if other than White. Date of Birth *Jan 19, 1901* 189

(Give Name, Street and Number.)

3. Place of Birth *H. 7 Clarion St. City*

4. Name of Father *Harry Johnston* {If out of Wedlock and Name not given write O. W.}

5. Maiden and Full Name of Mother *Christie (Carpenter) Johnston*

6. Birthplace or Country of Father *Clearfield Pa* Age *30* Occupation *R.R. Employee*

7. Birthplace or Country of Mother *Erie Pa* Age *22*

8. Number of this Mother's Previous Children *one* How many of them now living *one*

9. Name and address of Medical Attendant, or other authorized person, in own handwriting. Attest *Agnes White M.D.*

10. Date of this return *Jan 19, 1901* *Bradford Pa*

The actual name of the child is rarely given on these birth records, but you can read the father's name Harry Johnston, the mother's name Christie Johnston (and her maiden name, Carpenter); the birthplace of the father Clearfield, PA; the birthplace of the mother Erie, Pennsylvania; her age 22, his age 30; the place of birth, the

date of birth, sex, date of return, attending doctor or midwife, and occupation of the father. Some certificates have more information than others, but for genealogists, any information is helpful.

These paper certificates – both birth and death – were supposedly then recorded in the ledger books, also kept inside City Hall. Interestingly, we have discovered that Bradford's certificates and ledgers sometimes don't match up, however. There are entries in the ledgers that have no corresponding paper trail. But, since the records have been kept since 1893 (and during that time the offices in City Hall were moved several times to say nothing of the great City Hall fire in 1901) it's not that surprising that some paper certificates ended up missing along the way.

But the odd thing is, we have found more than a few paper birth & death certificates that were never entered in those ledgers at all. Only the paper copy exists. This is puzzling. If all the births and deaths were supposed to be recorded in the ledgers, and the ledgers cover all the correct time periods, why were hundreds of them never recorded? And to add to the confusion, many of the certificates have the word "entered" on them. Entered? Where? There doesn't seem to be any missing ledgers. We don't think that doctors kept ledgers. No one else was required to 'enter' births or deaths.....it remains a mystery as to why these were never recorded in books.

Which is another important reason for the Landmark to scan and preserve all these records.

On January 1, 1906, the newly established Pennsylvania Department of Health officially began to issue state birth and death certificates on a statewide basis. Births were to be reported to the county, and county officials were to report them to the state. While the law took effect in 1906, 90% registration compliance was not obtained until 1915. Now all births are reported to the PA Division of Vital Records in New Castle.



But that doesn't mean that those records are necessarily available to the general public. They are restricted. Birth records only become public 105 years after the date of birth, while death records become public 50 years after the date of death. So, birth records after 1911 and death records after 1966 are restricted, meaning certain requirements must be met to obtain a copy of a birth certificate after 1966. Birth records, for example are not be released unless you are the actual person listed on the certificate, a sibling, parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, a husband or wife, or a legal representative.

The same rules apply for death records.

So, while it might take a little digging to get a copy of your ancestor's birth or death records, it will be worth it.

And when the Landmark Society finally finishes the scanning of the birth records (and we estimate that there will be about 4,000 when finished), stop in and see if your family records are here. And you might just discover another branch on your family tree!

**Thank you for your continued membership
in the Bradford Landmark Society**

Thanks to your generosity, the Herbig Bakery will continue to serve as the headquarters of the Bradford Landmark Society: actively researching, collecting, preserving, and protecting the history of Bradford and the surrounding area.

Thanks to your generosity, needed repairs to the Crook Farm on Seward Avenue will be completed.

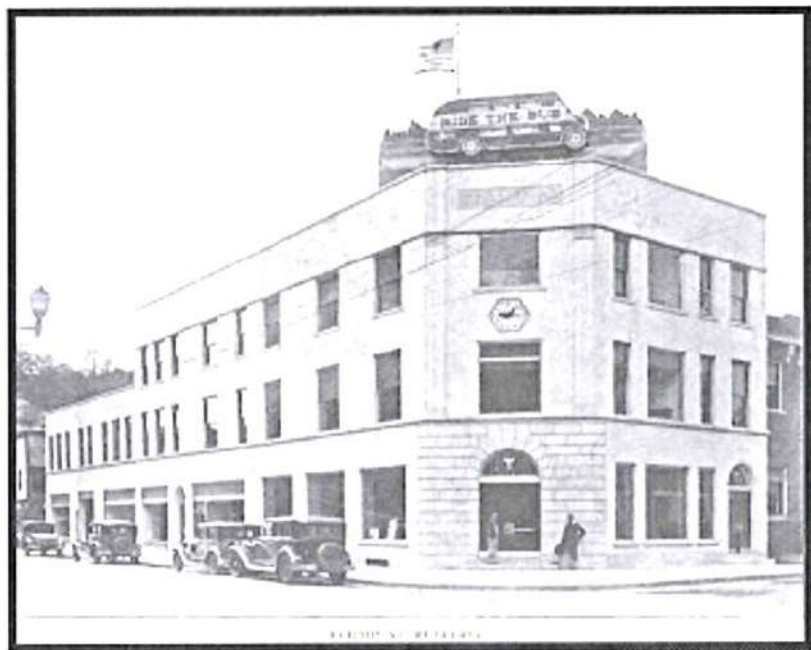
Thanks to your generosity, the Crook Farm School Program will continue to demonstrate life in the late 1800s to hundreds of school children each year.

Thanks to your generosity, The Crook Farm Country Fair will once again provide music, crafts, food, and fun to thousands of visitors each August.

Every visitor that comes to our society, every researcher, every person working on his family tree, and everyone interested in saving Bradford's past is positively affected, in part, by your donation and hundreds of others who responded to our membership appeal..

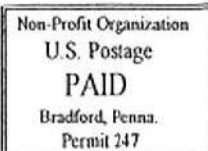
Once again, thank you.

The Bradford Landmark Society depends solely on the support of the community we serve.



The Terminal Building at 10 South Avenue was built as early as 1882; but it better known as the Terminal Building, the Dodaro Building, the Tidewater Oil Building, the Wagner Business College, or Pompleon Hall, depending on how far back your memory goes. It was dramatically altered in 1930 when Tony Dodaro purchased the building from the Tidewater Oil Company to convert it to a combination taxi stand, bus terminal (hence the name), offices, and small stores. This photo dates from May 1931, shortly after the

Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701



It was 100 Years Ago

- ◆ The first Bradford automobile show to be staged at the Armory on March 9, 10, & 11, 1916.
- ◆ New Cattaraugus County TB sanitarium on Rock City Hill, Rocky Crest, to be built; February 1916.
- ◆ Horse drawn snowplow clears sidewalks in snowstorms. March 1916.
- ◆ Restrooms for the public will be opened today at the Carnegie Public Library. A competent lady attendant has been secured. The room will be open daily from 9Am to 6PM. July 1916
- ◆ Tornado hits Sawyer City. E.S. O'Mara house moved from its foundation; Dairy farm buildings damaged. October 1916
- ◆ Taxi service is started by Bay State Hotel. February 1916
- ◆ Mrs. L. E. Hamsher makes a gift of Hamsher house to Bradford Hospital. April 1916
- ◆ Visiting Nurses Service inaugurated in Bradford. July 1916



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45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701
www.bradfordlandmark.org

814-362-3906
JUNE 2016

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~ ~ ~

The Bradford
Landmark Society
is a
501c3 non-profit
Organization.

Membership in our
society is welcomed.

Like us on
Facebook!

Happy Summer!

It's finally here. Summer. And for the Landmark Society, spring and summer both mean that the Crook farm wakes up after a long, dormant winter and the fun begins!

We began with the Crook farm school program in May. Check out the article in this edition of the newsletter. The program really starts back in January, when the local Pennsylvania and New York State elementary schools get contacted and advised to make their reservations early. Schools must arrange bus transportation, permission slips for the kids, funding, chaperones, and make sure that there is nothing else, such as state testing, scheduled for the day they want to come. We send lots of emails to teachers, brochures, letters, information on the Crooks and the farm itself, and do the scheduling. This year, the program began on May 16th.

We have a new event this summer as well that we are excited about. The Twin Tiers Community Band will present a concert of patriotic and popular music at the Crook farm on July 3rd, from 2PM-4PM. The TTCB is a concert band made up of about 30 musicians from school age to seniors doing what they love best – playing music at community gatherings and charitable functions throughout the Southwestern NY and Northwestern PA region. We'll have tents in case of rain, or as shade from the sun, but you can bring your own chairs and blankets if you wish. Ice cream will be sold, too, because what's summer without ice cream? Best of all, ADMISSION IS FREE!

The end of July will bring the 3rd annual Women's Creative Workshop. It will be held on Saturday, July 30th this year, and while we don't have quite all the classes nailed down yet, we know for sure that there will be quilting, tie dying, making terrariums, juggling, counted cross stitch, learning how to make sushi, wood burning, blacksmithing, and making birdhouses. There are several others in the "not quite sure if we can offer them yet" stage, but watch next week for posters and other information to be released as well as a newspaper article. It will be another great year! We began the WCW in 2014; last year we had 67 women join us and we hope to reach 100 this year.

And of course, it wouldn't be summer without the annual Crook Farm Country Fair and Old Time Music Festival. The dates this year are the August 27 and August 28. The fair features craft and food vendors, as well numerous opportunities to take part in the culture of old time music such as bluegrass, folk and American traditional.

Admission is \$5 a person, and kids 12 and under are free. There is lots of food, music, crafts, demonstrations, a Chinese Auction, pony rides, a petting zoo, tours of the buildings, and of course, lots of people.

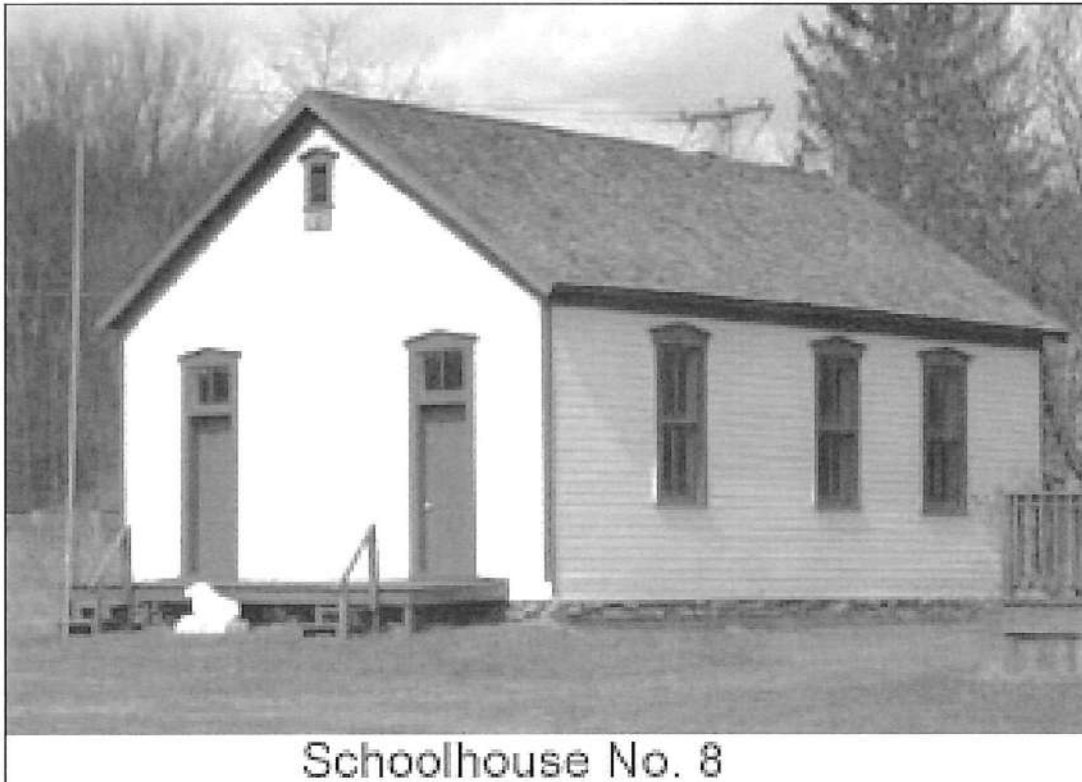
Crook Farm School Program 2016 a Success!

The students have come and gone. The teachers have packed up their papers, the candle makers have turned off the heat under the wax, the weavers have shut down the looms, the carpenter had closed his shop, and the farmhouse has been closed (at least until the Country Fair this summer). The school store has been cleared away for another year, as the 37th annual Crook Farm School Program ends another very successful year at the Crook Farm.

We had 538 students this year which is an increase of 115 students over last year! They came from School Street Elementary, St. Bernard's School, the Christian Academy, the Learning Center, Johnsonburg Elementary, St. Mary's Catholic Elementary, Portville Central Elementary School, Ellicottville Central School District, Allegany-Limestone Central School, and New Life Christian School. All the kids had a great time.

Molly Lindahl, Tom Jones, and I (Sally Costik) ran the school store, and sold friendship bracelets, kazoos, yoyos, wooden flutes, kick balls, marbles, train whistles, paper dolls, brightly colored bird whistles, magnets, domino necklaces, and a new item this year, wooden articulated snakes, which were hugely popular with the students.

The volunteers who helped run the School Program under the direction of Judy Yorks (who also filled in where needed, whether it was teaching, candle making or weaving), were Susan Oliphant, Harrijane Moore, Sue Wells, Maryon Swanson, Lynda Rook, Mary Ann Rooney, Linda Brocius, Cal Abbott, Jeanette Matto, Mary Gibbs, Nancy Dryden, Connie Goldthwait, Sue Jeffards, and Margie Knox. Some were school teachers, some were weavers, some were candle makers, some were docents in the house or the carpenter shop, but all of them did a great job. Thank all of you for a wonderful school program this spring.



A Patriotic Music Band Concert

Patriotic and Popular Music by

Twin Tiers Community Band

July 3rd at 2:00

At the historic Crook Farm
476 Seaward Avenue, Bradford

Bring your own blankets and chairs!

Stop and buy some Ice Cream & Goodies at our Booth!

ADMISSION IS FREE!

The Erie Canal

Remember singing the Erie Canal Song when you were a kid? Being named Sally, I used to cringe when it got to the part about “a mule named Sal.” As grade school students, I think we were only faintly aware that it was a song about an actual thing – and that the real canal was so close, geographically speaking, to our own area.

Recently, I was reading an article in the 1911 Bradford Era in which a reporter interviewed Philip Webster. Webster, as you may know, was a stepson of Colonel Little, one of the first settlers in the area. Webster was reminiscing about his family’s arrival in 1827 in what would become Littleton, and later Bradford.

Webster explained that his father and mother had come by a wagon from Concord, New Hampshire to Olean, and then onto Smethport to await the arrival of their household goods, which were sent by the Erie Canal.

The Erie Canal! Just like the song! What was the Erie Canal? And does it still exist?

In a time when bulk goods were limited to pack animals and there were no railways, water was the most cost-effective way to ship bulk goods. The Erie Canal was the first transportation system between the eastern seaboard (New York City) and the western interior (Great Lakes) of the United States that did not require portage. It was faster than carts pulled by draft animals, and cut transport costs by about 95%.

On July 4, 1817, ground was broken for the construction of the canal. When finally completed on October 26, 1825, it was the engineering marvel of its day. It included 18 aqueducts to carry the canal over ravines and rivers, and 83 locks, with a rise of 568 feet from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, a distance of about 363 miles. It was 4 feet deep and 40 feet wide, and floated boats carrying 30 tons of freight. A ten foot wide towpath was built along the bank of the canal for the horses and/or mules (which may or may not have been named Sal) which pulled the boats and their driver, often a young boy.

The popular “Low Bridge” folksong was written in 1905 by Thomas S. Allen after Erie Canal barge traffic was converted from mule power to engine power, raising the speed of traffic. The song memorializes the years from 1825 to 1880 when the mule barges made boomtowns out of Utica, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo, and transformed New York into the Empire State. The original lyrics were “fifteen miles on the Erie Canal”, the average distance a mule would tow a barge before resting or being relieved by another mule.

The canal fostered a population surge in western New York and opened regions farther west to settlement.

It was enlarged between 1834 and 1862. The canal's peak year was 1855, when 33,000 commercial shipments took place. In 1918, the western part of the canal was enlarged to become part of the New York State Barge Canal, which ran parallel to the eastern half and extended to the Hudson River.

I've got an old mule and her name is Sal
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.
She's a good old worker and a good old pal
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.

We've hauled some barges in our day
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay
And every inch of the way we know
From Albany to Buffalo.

Chorus:
Low bridge, everybody down.
Low bridge cause we're coming to a town
And you'll always know your neighbor
And you'll always know your pal
If you've ever navigated on the Erie Canal.

Get up there Sal, we've passed that lock,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.
And we'll make Rome before six o'clock
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.

One more trip and back we'll go
Through the rain and sleet and snow
And every inch of the way I (we) know

From Albany to Buffalo

In 2000, the United States Congress designated the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to recognize the national significance of the canal system as the most successful and influential human-built waterway and one of the most important works of civil engineering and construction in North America.

But there were other canals, too, that branched off the Erie Canal including one that came all the way to Olean.

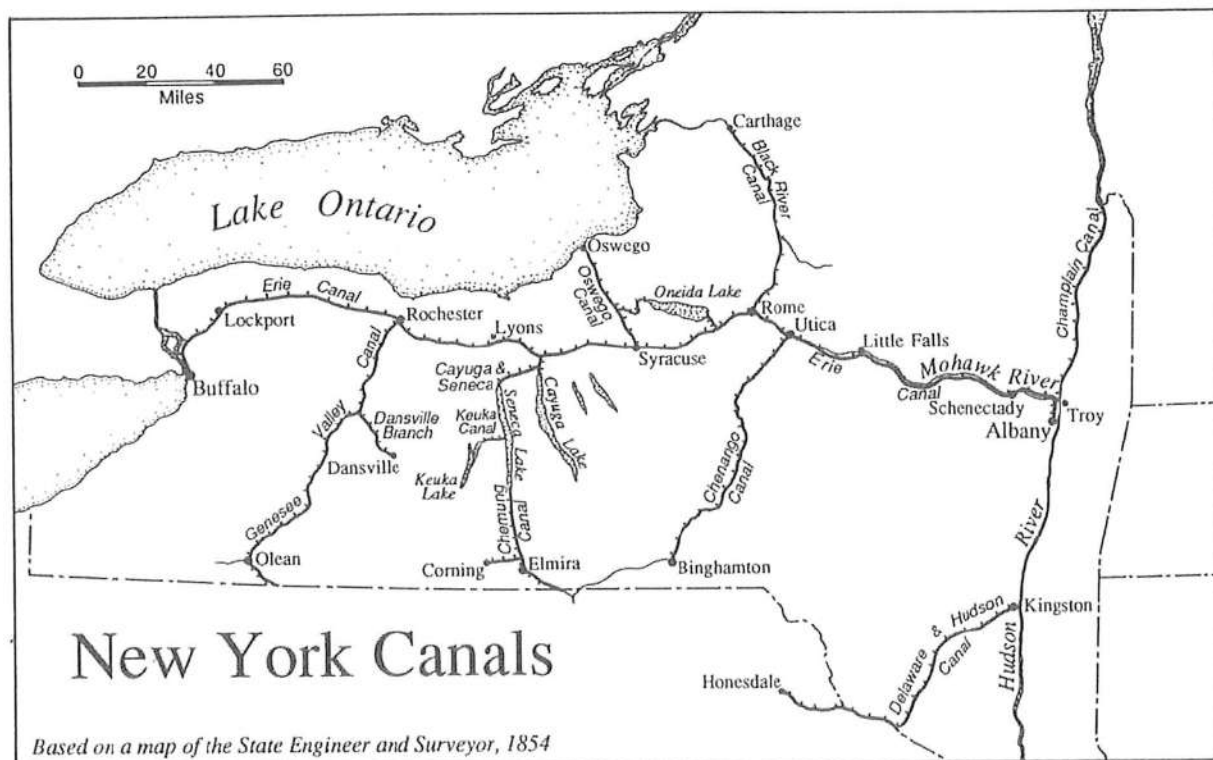
On 6 May 1836, an act was passed in the New York Legislature authorizing the construction of the Genesee Valley Canal. It was to run from the Erie Canal on the south side of Rochester south-southwest along the Genesee River valley to Mount Morris, Portageville, and Belfast, and then cross-country to the Allegheny River at Olean, with a branch from Mount Morris paralleling the Canaseraga Creek to Dansville.

On 1 September 1840, the canal was opened to navigation from Rochester to Mount Morris. The extension to Dansville opened in the fall of 1841.

The full line was opened at the beginning of navigation in 1862, running to Olean on the Allegheny River and beyond to Mill Grove, on the river just north of the Pennsylvania state line. However, by then, the Main Line of Public Works and Pennsylvania Railroad had been completed, opening up the interior of Pennsylvania without depending on New York, and there was no further interest in improving the Allegheny River.

On 4 June 1877, the legislature approved an abandonment of the canal on 30 September 1878. The canal was sold on 6 November 1880 to the Genesee Valley Canal Railroad, which had been chartered 15 July of that year.

The canal is long gone, but its remnants form the Genesee Valley Greenway. Sites like the remnants of the Ischua Dam can be seen by visiting the Town of Ischua Historical Society and Park, on the corner of Route 16 and Farwell Road in the Town of Ischua. Further down Route 16, the Hinsdale VFW post has highlighted the remnants of the lock system of the Genesee Valley Canal located there, both in Cattaraugus County near the Olean terminus.



Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701

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The next time that you are down near the Crook Farm, check out the new siding on the barn. The old boards were replaced with new ones, using hemlock wood that was purchased and put up on sticks to dry last summer.

A set of barn doors, which have been stored inside the barn for many years, will be installed on the front.

The summer kitchen project on the farmhouse is due to begin in just a few weeks, too. Lots of progress at the farm!





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November can be a dreary month. Lots of rain, cooler, and nearly all of the trees have lost their leaves. Most of us look forward to Thanksgiving and then Christmas.

But history has been made in November, too. For example, the Bradford Army Navy Supply store on West Washington Street opened in November 1921. One wonders if they were selling used WWI equipment. The contract to build the Marilla Reservoir was awarded to William Hanley in November 1898. The 'eternal flame' which used to burn in Veterans Square, was dedicated and lit on November 10, 1969 by local veteran organizations. Pennzoil officials announced a purchase price of \$7.45 per barrel, an increase of \$1, for Bradford Pennsylvania Grade crude oil, the highest posted price for crude oil in this country during the 20th century. That happened in November 1973. The public square on Bradford's Main Street was renamed Veterans Square in November 1954.

A polo match, the first since 1931, was held at the Valley Hunt Club in November 1963. Bradford's four banks mailed Christmas Club checks amounting to \$1,191,890 to nearly 8,000 participants in the 1977 annual holiday savings. In November 1981, Bradford Area School Board approved the purchase of a Commodore computer system from Blumenthal's of Olean, NY at a price of \$5,334 for instruction in word processing and accounting functions. The county began 1995 in a financial shambles, but will end the year "in a very good, sound fiscal position," according to Commissioner Harrijane Hannon. The 53rd annual Kiwanis Kapers, titled "Rumor Has It," directed by Barbara Pederson and produced by Shane Oschman and Pat Ryan, was presented at Bradford High School Auditorium in November 2010 to receptive crowds. The hotly contested 2004 November presidential race brought out 62 percent of registered voters in McKean County. In 2013, Bradford geared up for the fifth annual Christmas parade down Main Street.

And in 1879, Patrick Brady, a Pine Street tailor, becomes a maniac from overwork. I am sure that we can all relate.

P.O. Box 1021, Bradford, PA 16701 814-362-3906 www.bradfordlandmark.org

New at the Landmark!



Much thanks to Lacey Love, Bradford's librarian (she's been here two years already!), who recently donated this cabinet to the Landmark Society. "When we decided to get rid of it, I immediately thought of the Landmark" Lacey told me, and we are glad she did.

While we couldn't find the exact name of it anywhere on the Internet – we're just calling it a cabinet - its solid quarter-sawn oak, with heavy brass rollers, originally used in the library to store over-sized books, such as atlases. We estimate it to date from the 1940s.

The Landmark is using it to store our own oversize books, the Sanborn maps.

We puzzled over how to move it for awhile – you can imagine the weight, with solid oak sides, top and bottom with eight metal rollers – but quite by accident we found out that the rollers were removable by sliding out brass pins on either side. Once we took out the rollers, the weight was manageable, and my son Bill Costik and I hoisted it up into the back of my Subaru, and were off to the Landmark. We found the perfect spot for it in our middle room.

Now, getting those rollers back inside the correct spots in the cabinet was a challenge but we persevered, and soon filled it with books. It really makes a difference and we appreciate the Bradford Area Public Library donating this to the Landmark. Thanks again!

Thank you to our volunteers

It's been a busy summer and spring. The Crook Farm School program, the Creative Women Workshop, the Crook Farm Country Fair all required hours of volunteer time. Thanks to all of you, and keep next year's calendar open, because we'll do it all again!

Fall Back! Regular Time Begins this Sunday, November 6

Benjamin Franklin takes the honor (or the blame, depending on your view of the time changes) for coming up with the idea to reset clocks in the summer months as a way to conserve energy. By moving clocks forward, people could take advantage of the extra evening daylight rather than wasting energy on lighting. At the time, Franklin was ambassador to Paris and so wrote a witty letter to the Journal of Paris in 1784, rejoicing over his "discovery" that the sun provides light as soon as it rises.

Most of the United States and Canada observe DST on the same dates. But of course, there are exceptions. Hawaii and Arizona are the two U.S. states that don't observe daylight saving time, though Navajo Nation, in northeastern Arizona, does follow DST, according to NASA.

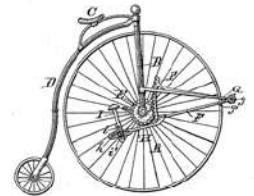
Inventors Among Us

Thomas Edison said it best, perhaps: *To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.*

There is no denying the Bradfordians are a clever bunch. Some of us, though, are cleverer than others, and these are the people who became inventors – and took their inventions to the next level by patenting them. A search on Google patents will show that over 3,000 patents have been awarded to people from Bradford.

As you might imagine, here in the oil fields of Pennsylvania, there are quite a few patents awarded to devices for industrial use. But many of the inventions, especially from the old days, were created to fulfill a need that no longer exists in modern times. To us they seem odd; possibly even weird; and certainly unusual. But you have to give these intrepid inventors credit – they had a good imagination. Whether or not they also had a pile of junk is your opinion.

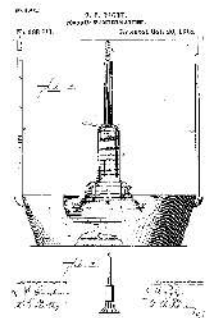
William Hambly decided to invent an adaptation for a bicycle for short people. Patented on Dec. 18, 1888 (Patent No. 290576), it was “to be used by persons short in stature, and to enable such persons to drive larger wheels than heretofore, and to permit of the largest possible leverage upon the driving-wheel, whereby the bicycle is made of more universal use in larger sizes and more easily adapted to the elevations and roughness of the common roadway.”



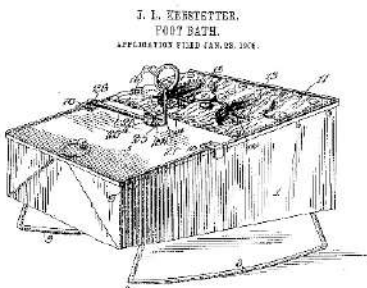
Patent No. 494,590, dated April 4, 1893 was an invention that combined both a suitcase and a place to sleep when you arrived at your destination. Augustus Newell: “The object of my invention is to so construct a trunk or chest that it will unfold and rest directly upon the floor, ground, or other support, the same constructed in a manner to be very firm and strong when folded up and to give the greatest possible amount of length when unfolded.” When unfolded, his invention formed a single or double cot or bed which was at the same time adapted to receive clothing for transportation.

James Leasure invented a better hotel register, in November 1886. His invention related to improvements in that class of hotel-registers in which a sheet of paper, upon which the name, residence, & company is recorded, wound from one roller to another. Not sure if this ever became popular.

Saba E. Moore was granted a patent in August 1909 for a design that kept skirt bands from creeping up upon the corset. Don't you hate it when that happens?



Clark F. Rigby of Bradford, invented what he termed the “Pounder Washing Machine.” (No. 328,811. Patented Oct. 20, 1885.) Using an ordinary washing tub, the device was fashioned to its sides with a special frame containing spring which counterbalanced the weight of the pounder, making it much easier to push dirty wet clothes up and down, similar to today's automatic washers.

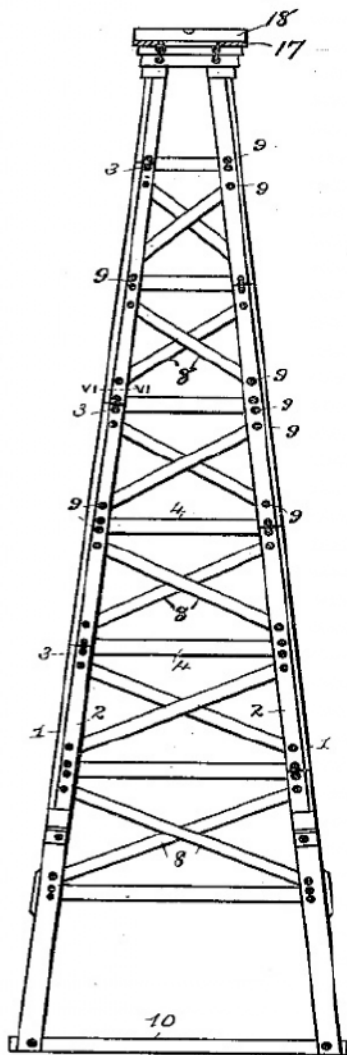


A new and useful Foot-Bath. (No. 794026. July 4, 1905.) was invented by James Luther Kerstetter. “The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of foot-bath apparatus and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient device designed, primarily, for treating feet for various ailments such as rheumatism, gout, and the like.” The receptacle was rocked by the feet to agitate warm water back and forth over the feet as an automatically-oscillating heating device beneath the tub or receptacle kept the temperature uniform.

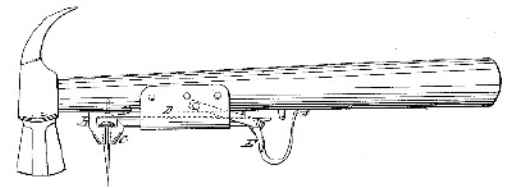
Ernest Laverne Appleby just wanted to keep his umbrella from being stolen. So he invented an umbrella lock. "This invention relates to umbrella-locks, and more particularly to portable locks; and it has for its object to provide a simple, cheap, and effective construction in which the locks may be adjusted to receive and firmly hold umbrellas having different diameters when closed and in which there is provided means for easily and firmly securing the lock to a post, rail, or other stationary object to prevent stealing of the lock with the umbrella." Future inventors used his idea to make bicycle locks. (No. 662,334. Patented Nov. 20, 1900.)

No. 342,638. Patented May 25, 1886. Perry Ross saw a need to keep your socks up and kids' underwear from falling down and invented a clasp "suspending stockings, drawers, children's underwear, and other portions of the garments, and which is provided with a blind button and devices which clasp the garment against opposite sides of the button, so that it is impossible for the clasp to work loose."

Perry Ross (apparently a man who was fascinated with different ways to keep articles of clothing secure) also invented a way to keep rubber overshoes on his feet. (No. 347,066. Aug. 10, 1886.) This invention provided an attachment for rubber shoes so that after the shoe was placed upon the foot its rear top edge could be contracted above the top of the heel of the wearer's foot, so as to prevent the rubber overshoe from coming off the foot.



One of the earliest patents in Bradford's history was granted to Ransom Green (No. 84,351. Nov. 24, 1868). He invented a better hammer and nail-holder, to provide a more convenient nail-holding device. It consisted of "the arrangement on the handle, near the hammer, of a fixed and a sliding clamping-jaw, the latter being provided with a spring, for causing it to clamp the nail, and a thumb-piece for retracting it."



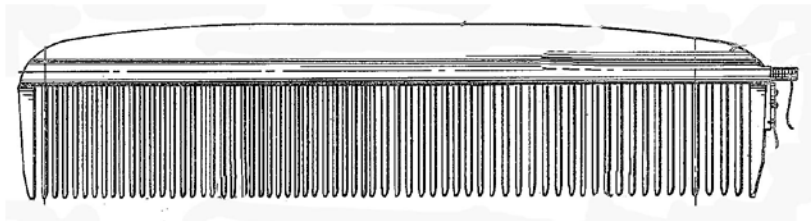
Simon Freeman invented a coffee pot strainer. (No. 601,955. April 5, 1898.) The invention provided an auxiliary strainer which had two straining-surfaces, each of which could be readily cleaned, and whereby, when the auxiliary strainer was used in connection with the coffee-pot, the liquid which was poured from the pot was perfectly clear.

George Corbett boasted that "my invention relates to improvements in towers in general, but more particularly it has reference to those towers or derricks used in connection with rigs for drilling and pumping wells; and it has for its object a portable derrick or tower that will be strong, durable, and inexpensive, and one whose parts may be prepared complete and ready for use at a factory or shop and shipped to the field in a knocked down and compact form and readily put together without the assistance of a skilled rig-builder." (No. 428,462. May 20, 1890.)

These are a few more Bradford inventions – quite inventive!

- George Edmunds invented an improvement on regular horseshoes in 1883.
- Theodore Schirmacher invented a better oil can to be used in lighting oil lamps, in 1893.
- In 1921, John Cullinan was granted a patent for an ‘amusement device’ which, he claimed, afforded “a means of amusement, recreation, or pastime diversion which is unique and fascinating, especially to the young, while it is not without attraction for the more elderly.” It looked very much like a small wooden top.
- J. W. Hilton and R. Green invented a better axe head in 1868.
- Albert O’Dell liked to roller skate and invented a different kind of wheel for the skates, in 1886.
- Louise Bovaird invented a simple way to paint venetian blinds (the metal ones) in 1963.
- In June of 1936, Frank Hornquist was granted a patent for designing unique guard railings used on the platforms of sleds or wagons to prevent small children from falling out, and to provide an exceptionally simple and inexpensive construction readily adjustable for use with platforms of various widths.
- Joseph S. Bennett thought up a flight position indicator for pilots, using an indicator comprising an element hung by a strap carried across and in contact with the person of the pilot of the aircraft. “From actual test it has been found that indicators thus arranged and operated are neither irritating nor nerve racking in any way.” It was patented in June 1930.
- Holy Smokes! In October 1933 Milton Green invented “a light, strong and inexpensive “cigarette maker” which will permit the packing of the tobacco to suit the individual user’s fancy.”
- Ralph Moran invented a new, original, and ornamental Design for Coin Bank, commonly called the “bubble bank” in 1947. These can still be found on Ebay.
- My favorite, though, is the Fountain Comb. Invented by Alfred Taborski in 1940, his improved comb had two sets of channels running along the spine of the comb, and feeding down into the hollow teeth. One channel could carry shampoo or medication, and the other carried water. One simply combed the Fountain comb through the scalp.

Taborski did note that “It should be understood that the device will lend itself particularly well for use by a person taking a bath. If the device is used under these conditions, the container may be hung on shower curtain supporting rod so that adequate flow is assured.” And a lot less mess, I would assume.



Taborski eventually ended up in Buffalo, NY – but not before he invented a toothbrush that acted very much like the Fountain Comb (it also dispersed toothpaste and water through its bristles) and several variations on interchangeable bowties.

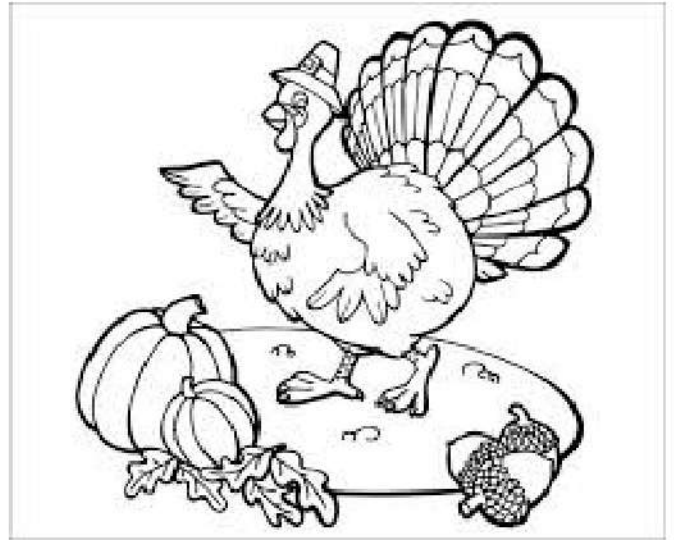
Interested in learning more about Bradford inventions? Search “Google Advanced Patent Search” and when it opens up, type “Bradford, Pennsylvania” in the ‘exact phrase’ box. You’ll spend hours learning about all Bradford inventions. And who knows? You might even find your own invention there someday! Good Luck!

November is upon us.
Thanksgiving's nearly here.
I've never been more thankful than
the way I feel this year.

I'm thankful we have apple pie.
I'm thankful we have beans.
I'm thankful we have mashed potatoes,
yams, and salad greens.

But, most of all, I'm thankful that
my future isn't murky.
My family's vegetarian
and I am their pet turkey.

--Kenn Nesbitt



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