



A Newsletter for Friends of the Bradford Landmark

The Inkwell

September 2020

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

www.bradfordlandmark.org

Board of Directors:

Harrijane Moore
Robert Esch
Yvonne Cattoni
John Place
Margi Knox
Judy Yorks
Joel Meyers
Pete Gardner
Linda Brocius
Pat Stromberg
Dean Fox
Sheryl Silvis

Herbig Bakery Curator

Sally Costik

Crook Farm Director

Judy Yorks

Genealogist

Molly Lindahl

Editor of the Inkwell

Sally Costik

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System
Civil War Statue at Oak
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Even in these uncertain times, filled with news of the Covid-19 pandemic and economic difficulties, the Bradford Landmark Society proudly declares "We're still here!"

Yes, we are still here, currently open on a limited basis, but ready and willing to help with research, local history, and those seeking genealogical information. Since 1969 we have been a vital part of Bradford and the Tuna Valley, dedicated to the identification, discovery, preservation, presentation and dissemination of our rich history. It takes more than a worldwide pandemic to hold us back!

Our early founders, including Marian Bromeley, Bernice Lowery, and Janice Taylor along with D. Harvey Phillips, Mrs. Charles Rowe, Dan Daly, Harold Krantz, Virginia Miles, Dr. Mary Swarts, and Mrs. Bennett Friedman believed that the guardianship of the history of the early oil heritage was crucial to future generations and formed the Landmark Society over fifty years ago.

Both the Bakery and the Crook Farm, historic sites, are important to the economy and tourism of the area. The Herbig Bakery is the oldest wooden frame commercial building in existence in the city and the Crook Farmhouse was placed on the National Register in 1976.

The Herbig Bakery at 45 E. Corydon Street acts as a central location for collecting and preserving historical materials and artifacts. We help people know about their roots and assist newcomers to the community in gaining a sense of Bradford's past. We continue to teach children about the early life of Tuna Valley settlers through the Crook Farm School program and provide hands-on opportunities for effective learning. Our Crook Farm Fair and Old Time Music Festival is a popular summer event for those fascinated with bluegrass and period music.

With nearly 17,000 photographs, advertising memorabilia, family records, maps, uniforms and clothing, genealogical materials, blueprints, documents, books, etc. the Landmark welcomes those who are curious about our past, eager to understand the present, and who support our efforts to safeguard this knowledge for the future.

The Landmark Society is currently open on Friday mornings, from 9AM to 1PM, although special arrangements can be made for individual appointments. Masks and social distancing are required. We can be contacted via email at info@bradfordlandmark.org or by calling 814-362-3906. Please visit our website at www.BradfordLandmark.org to learn more about the Society, the Herbig Bakery, The Crook farm, and interesting articles on local history.

Coffee with the Curator

Featuring Sally Costik, Curator

Looking for a fun way to learn more history of the city? We invite you to join us on Youtube.com, for an entertaining look at the places, people, and events that shaped Bradford. It's called "Coffee with the Curator" and it appears every two weeks. You can find the link on our Facebook page, Bradford Landmark Society, or the Bradford Area Public Library's Facebook page. You DO NOT have to have a Facebook page of your own to view these pages. Or just type in one of the videos listed below on Youtube and it should pop up. Each video is about 5 to 10 minutes long and contains photographs and interesting historical information. You might even learn something that you didn't know!

It began this spring, when the Bradford Area Public Library marketing director, Janelle Nolan, asked the Landmark if we would be willing to video some aspect of the Bradford Landmark Society in conjunction with the summer reading program of the library. With some trepidation, I said yes. I had just gotten my very first cell phone, and knew that I could video segments that would feature the little known, yet interesting stories from the past - but I had never done it.

My first attempt was a learning curve - having never even had a cell phone before, I wasn't sure exactly how or where the camera was. Frankly, I was still learning how to make a phone call and text, much less learn how to video. But I persevered (called my daughter Cara a few times, who advised me to not cover up the camera with my finger and "look directly at the screen, Mom") and on June 9 we "went live" on YouTube with our first video.

Since then the videos have been growing in popularity and I've been getting better at videotaping. There were 544 views in the last 28 days alone and a total of 1,054 views since we started this project. It seems that more and more people each week are 'tuning in' to watch the latest "Coffee with the Curator." I spoke to a man from West Virginia last week and he told me he loves them!

In these Covid-19 pandemic times, it's been a great way to keep people aware of the Bradford Landmark Society and our mission, which is to promote interest in the history of Bradford and the Tuna Valley. And it's a heck of a lot of fun, too.

Here's a listing of what we've done so far. Take a look!

Coffee with the Curator No. 1 - Newspapers in the Collection of the Landmark Society

The first video in the series, it shows the newspaper room in the Herbig Bakery where all of the Bradford Eras, and Evening Stars are stored, and views of some of the really rare newspapers in the collection.

Coffee with the Curator No. 2 - Daisy Welch and Her Amazing Peanut People

One of the most popular videos showcases the amazing talent of local folk artist Daisy Welch, who created hundreds of tiny little people and animals using only peanuts, fabric, and pieces of matchsticks. There are approximately 30 peanut people, dogs, cats, and chickens in the collection of the Landmark, all in great shape and perfectly preserved. You MUST see this one!

Coffee with the Curator No. 3 - Bricks Built Bradford

This video looks at the history of brick manufacturing in the city, with emphasis on Hanley Brick. The Landmark has quite a collection of the different types of bricks manufactured by several local brick factories.

Coffee with the Curator No. 4 - Down on the Farm at the Crook Farmhouse

Dean Fox, a member of the Bradford Landmark Society's Board of Directors and very knowledgeable on the history of the Crooks, and the Crook Farm, agreed to be videotaped as he spoke on the history of the farmhouse as the camera followed him on a walking tour.

Coffee with the Curator No. 5 - The History of the Emery Hotel

Little known facts about the origin of the Emery Hotel (1929), details on its grand opening, and eventual transformation into Emery hall, a UPB dormitory, as well as present day Emery Towers, are included.

Coffee with the Curator No. 6 - The Mill Street Douglass Dam

The intriguing story of Charles Douglass, who owned the dam and mill for which Mill Street was named, the decades long legal battles that took place as the city wanted to destroy it and the final resolution.

Coffee with the Curator No. 7 - The Disappearance of Marjory West

The famous story of the disappearance of little four year old Marjory West on Mother's Day in 1938, is a story that everyone should be aware of. Lots of photographs of the search and background material is given.

Coffee with the Curator No. 8 - The Wagner Opera House on 62 Main Street

Fascinating story of the oldest brick building in the city, currently Moments to Remember, which was built as an opera house in 1876. Many famous actors and entertainers appeared here, including Edwin Booth, John Phillip Sousa, Lillie Langtry, John L. Sullivan, Mrs. Tom Thumb, and others. The Ku Klux Klan met there in the 1920s. Later, this building became the J.C. McCrory store for over 80 years.

Future "Coffee with the Curator" will cover the 1909 Old Home Week, Harri Emery and his airport, Pig Island, Bradford soldiers and the Spanish American War, buildings on Main Street and more!



*Coffee
with
the
Curator*

There has been a lot of talk, lately, about the US Postal System, and we thought it would be interesting to tell you about the history of the post office in Bradford. This article was written in December 1879 and appeared in the Bradford Era.

THE CURIOUS OFFICE THE PEOPLE OF BRADFORD USED TO PATRONIZE AND THE ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE TUNAGUANT

Forty years has marked many changes in the Tuna Valley, both in population and improvements. To the new-comer of today, the vestiges of what was once a wild, unbroken forest are still quite palpable. Just forty-seven years ago what is now Main Street of the city of Bradford, was covered by stately trees whose planting was by the hand of nature centuries before. An elderly settler had entered the woods with a good ax, strong arm, and determined will, and succeeded in opening a clearing about the site of Boylston, Kennedy and Amm streets.

In 1832, a storm of a very severe nature swept down this section of the valley, down the hill on the south side of Bennett Brook to Harrisburg (*editor's note: Harrisburg is now known as the Elm Street area*) almost the entire width of the valley, and mowed the trees down like stalks of wheat.

They lay in a deep tangled manner and a thick growth of underbrush sprung up which was so dense that it was said a pony could not pass through it without losing both hair and hide. But a few years after, pioneers came here and cleared away the wreck of the storm.



- In those days, there was no post office nearer than Smethport and Olean Point. An application was made to the authorities for the establishment of an office at some point in Bradford Township. In 1834, Jeremiah Webber, residing near State Line, was designated by the Department but he failed to comply with the terms of the law and another year rolled around. Captain William Fisher was then appointed and opened an office in his house at State Line. Smethport was the distributing point and mail was brought to the new office once a week. The only road between the two places was a blazed one through the unbroken wilderness. At that time, it was an utter impossibility to make the trip in a vehicle. As a receptacle for the mail matter, the postmaster procured a raisin box and into this the contents of the attenuated pouch were emptied weekly. Its capacity was ample, as but nineteen voters resided in the township. The office was not visited by a patron on an average of more than once a month. When a person called at the office, the postmaster would pull the box from under a bed, where it was regularly kept, empty the contents on the floor, and go over the whole with care.

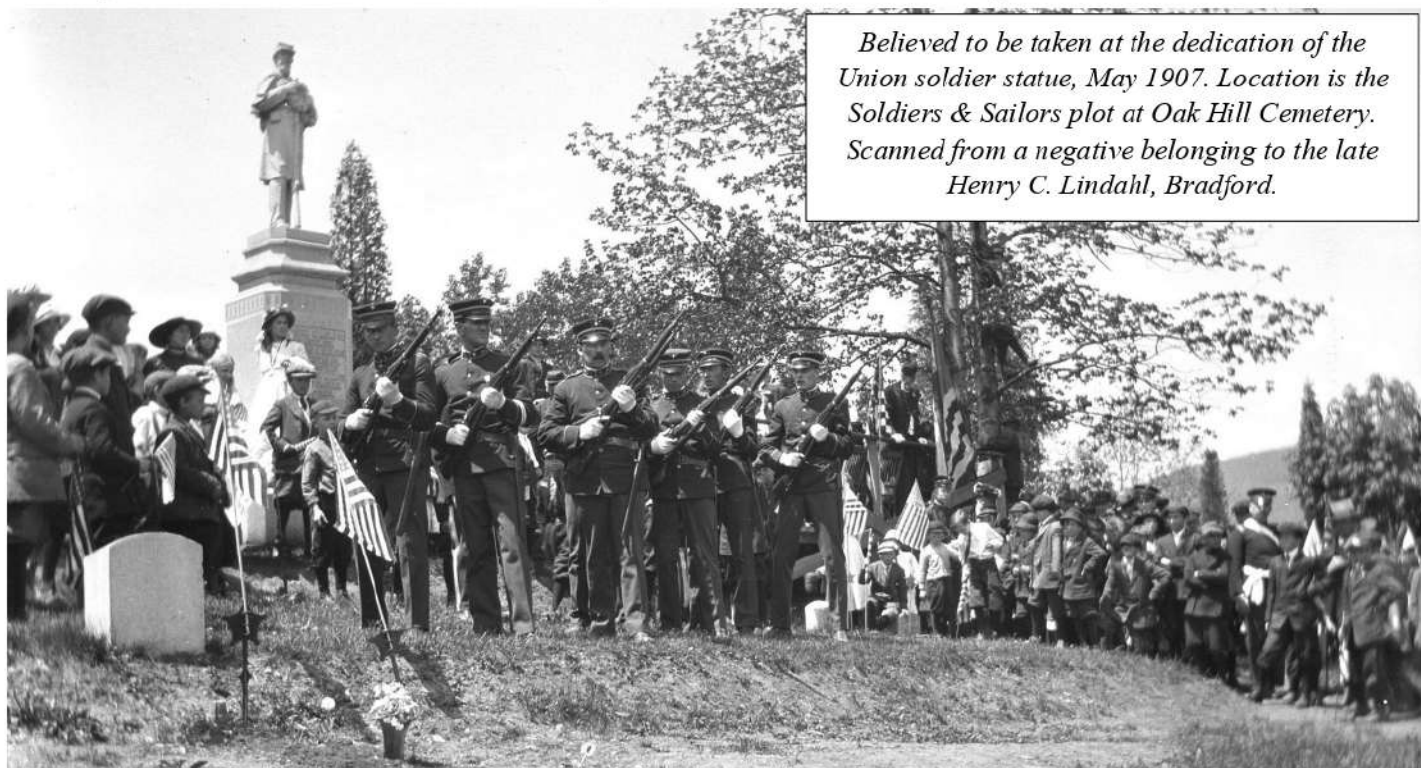
The office was known as the Tununguant with the manner of spelling as given. There has been great diversity of opinion as to the orthography of the Indian name. When the Boundary Commissioners ran the line between Pennsylvania and New York in 1786, they wrestled with the name and finally marshalled the letters thus: Cheneonguont. In 1798-1799 the Holland Land Company, owners of large tracts in this section, designated the stream and valley Tunaunguan. One year later, the Keating Land Company almost rivaled the Boundary Commissioners by spelling the word Tungumaguont. The educated among the Seneca Indians twenty years ago had this style which they maintained, was the right and proper one: Ischunuongwandt. The Indians could only secure the sound of the T in the letters i-s-c-h. The method of spelling adopted by the government for the post office (Tunaguant) is the best and the one most generally accepted.

THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER MOMUMENT AT OAK HILL DAMAGED BY STORM

High above the city, in Oak Hill Cemetery, a statue of a Union Civil War soldier stands, surrounded by the graves of approximately 375 fellow Civil War veterans. At least it did stand, until a tremendous storm on Thursday, August 28, caused a huge hickory tree to topple over, hitting the statue and knocking it to the ground.

The statue had been dedicated on Memorial Day in 1907, donated by Frank W. Davis, a local businessman and Civil War veteran "in memory of the deceased soldiers of Bradford." Constructed of 14 tons of Barre Granite, it represents a Union soldier in uniform, musket near his heart, with a laurel wreath clasped in his hands.

The storm hit the top of the statue, knocking off its head and doing severe damage to the rest of the figure. Currently, Oak Hill Association officials are hopeful that it can somehow be repaired.



Believed to be taken at the dedication of the Union soldier statue, May 1907. Location is the Soldiers & Sailors plot at Oak Hill Cemetery. Scanned from a negative belonging to the late Henry C. Lindahl, Bradford.



Photo, left, shows the large tree that crashed down among the veterans section of Oak Hill Cemetery.

The rest of the cemetery also suffered damage from downed trees, fallen branches, and high winds.

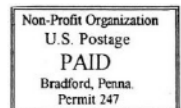
Meteorologists with the National Weather Service in State College determined that city wide damage was caused by straight line winds, not a tornado. Several years ago, the trees lining the entrance to the Pemhills Golf Club were also destroyed by similar winds.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- Panoramic photograph of McKean County Safety Patrols on their annual trip to Washington, DC, c. 1971. Donated by Patty Colosimo.
- Leather bound photo album (people not identified) and souvenir thermometer from the Davis Bakery. Donated by Sue Palz.
- 8 x 10 b & w photograph of Oscar Koester, NY (Bradford native) taken at his desk in NYC office. Donated by Mark Leary.
- Blueprints of the Seneca building and several photos of Bradford police outside City hall.
- Cootiette club memorabilia; pins, vests, documents. Donated by the estate of Sally Clark.
- Sheet music, and music books. Donated by John Place.
- Bradford Chamber of Commerce commemorative Christmas tree balls. Donated by Robin Gates.
- Small service dish from the Dresser mansion. Donated by Peggy and Thomas Welch.

Donations to the Landmark Society are always welcome! We are always looking forward to receiving photographs of Bradford events, people, buildings and places. We don't even need to keep the original picture - we can scan the image and return the original back to you. That way, you get to keep a cherished photo and the image becomes a permanent record of the history of the city.

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PO Box 1021
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Well, the year 2020 is almost over. It's been a strange one. But, it is fascinating to actually live through a time that literally is going down in history, just like the Spanish Flu of 1918.

Here at the Landmark, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we cancelled everything – no school program, no Creative Women's Workshop, no Country Fair and old Time Music Festival, no picnics at the Crook farm, no Christmas Open House at the Herbig Bakery, no participation in this year's First Night Celebration (which was cancelled, anyway), no nothing.

We closed the Herbig Bakery, our headquarters, and are now only open on Fridays, from 9AM to 1PM. Our front door is locked, but we let people in, as long as they are wearing masks. So far, it's worked out very well, and the only difference is, instead of coming in Mondays or Wednesdays, everyone wants to come in on Friday or phone us on Friday mornings. Check out our recent acquisitions, included in this newsletter.

We never even opened the Crook Farm and the buildings remain locked. The grass was mowed all summer, and while it *looks* like normal, it's not. The farm sleeps, awaiting the New Year and better days ahead.

On a positive note, the community has been generous to the Bradford Landmark Society, and has helped financially to keep us going. The Landmark depends on the support of the community and our members. We receive no government aid, so closing all our fundraising activities for an entire year – ouch!

We leave you with this thought from Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892):

*"Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow.
The year is going, let him go. Ring out the false, ring in the true."*

Inside this issue:

Chronology of the
Buildings and
Businesses

A Peculiar City

Let's Go to the Show

And Still They Come

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Each year, in the last newsletter of the year, the Bradford Landmark Society lists all the businesses in the Bradford area that have opened, closed, moved, changed owners, simply vanished, or changed in some way. We feel that this is important to understand where Bradford is heading as a vital growing community and to record history as it happened.

We are unable to catch all of them, but we try our best to keep track of them during the year. Of course, this year is unusual, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and even though it may seem that some businesses have closed forever, we sincerely hope that they are simply dormant, waiting for happier days to start up again.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE BUILDINGS AND BUSINESSES

OPENED FOR BUSINESS

Muddy Paws Dog Grooming Salon, Chambers Street. Opened on May 1.

Papa Scoops Ice Cream, 58 West Washington Street. Opened July 1.

Headspace Salon, 118 Kennedy Street. Opened August 20.

Mama Janes Eatery, 31 Bolivar Drive. Opened October 6.

Bright Beginnings Childcare & Preschool, 17 Derrick Road, opened November 30.

MOVED or REORGANIZED THEIR BUSINESS

Graves Barber Shop, moved from 4 Boylston Street to 7 Main Street. Reopened September 1.

A. F. Sullivan Tattoo Gallery, Moved from 8 Chestnut Street to 85 Main Street. Reopened September 20.

Burkhouse's Bargain House, Moved to 42 Foster Brook Blvd. from Mill Street. Reopened November 7.

Shoe Department at 42 Foster Brook Blvd. moved to renovated location; now **Shoe Dept. Encore** at the mall.

BCPAC (Bradford Creative and Performing Arts Center) moved from 2 Marilyn Horne Way to 119 Main Street.

CLOSED THEIR BUSINESS

Family Video at 102 West Washington street closed by the end of October.

Monte's Restaurant at 491 E. Main Street was sold and closed on November 17 and is currently being renovated into the **Liberty Tavern**.

Family Dollar at 32 Davis Street, closed this past summer.

Gordmans, at 1001 East Main Street (Bradford Mall) closed on September 27, 2020.

In August 1909, F. A. Churchill, former editor of the Bradford Evening Star newspaper was asked to write an article on what he believed to be the origin of the city.

The following is his editorial as it appeared in the newspaper on that day.

August 9, 1909

BRADFORD A PECULIAR CITY

The Character Of Her People Has Made This A Place Distinct From Other Inland Towns.

A Great Philadelphian's Amazement at Its Cosmopolitanism

I have been asked to write something about Bradford for the Star-Record's Old Home Week symposium.

An experience of twelve years as editor of Bradford newspapers ought to qualify me to write with assurance of events and persons connected with the city's development during its early years.

Yet, as I cast my mind over the past, I cannot recall any special train of events which I feel sure has been the main vehicle for carrying the city forward. Nor does any group of men stand out in my memory so conspicuously as to warrant the conclusion that the members of the group were chiefly instrumental in bringing to pass results of which all loyal citizens are proud.

A rational mind is ever seeking causes. We all know what Bradford is. What has made Bradford what it is, is a question not to be answered conclusively without reflection.

The first impulse is to say "Oil!" But that answer carries an admission that Bradford is today what it was thirty-five years ago – an accident. Such is not the case. Whatever fortuitous circumstances gave the city its initial impetus, its subsequent progress has been due rather to the operation of internal forces than to extraneous agencies.

Two Sides of Bradford

There are two sides to Bradford – the Bradford of natural resources and the Bradford of spiritual forces. Without the latter, the former would not have availed.

The oil-bearing rock is admittedly the foundation of the city's material prosperity. But oil does not explain Bradford. Oil is a source of wealth. But it is neither a principle of life nor an element of character nor a property of the soul. Mere wealth does not give character to a community. Other cities are as wealthy as Bradford but they do not resemble Bradford in any other respect. A city possessing individuality as strong as Bradford's has distinctive qualities. In order to account for Bradford, it is necessary to define these qualities.

Due credit is given the influence exerted by important events. Some men have done more than others in giving direction to the course of affairs. But, in my judgement, Bradford is not Bradford because of accidental happenings or by reasons of the determining influence of a few leading citizens. Bradford is a concrete expression of the spirit of the community as a whole.

Unencumbered by a Past

This may read like commonplace. It is not altogether so. Unlike many eastern cities, Bradford is unencumbered by a past. It is not bound by moss-grown traditions. It has never been hampered by provincial ideas. To all intents and purposes, it sprang into being full-fledged, like "Pallas from the brain of Jove."

Almost overnight a hamlet became a populous city. Wealth, energy, enterprise hastened here from all sections of the country. The influx brought some "undesirable citizens" but comparatively few drones. If weaklings came they soon faded from view. It was a time for the survival of the fittest. And let it be borne in mind that the survivors were the fittest of the fit, since other communities contributed their strong and most active men to the contest.

These men came from all quarters. They brought wide diversity of ideas. They represented every school of thought, every shade of opinion, and every avenue of life. They were men of action, with executive ability, keen business instincts and strong mental grasp. Some of them were diamonds in the rough. Others had trained intellect and liberal education. Very many of them held in solution, at least, and by varying degrees, the stuff of which empire-builders are made.

Bradford is the precipitate of the elements originally so held in solution.

Such men as I have described constituted not only the dominating influence, but also the actual numerical majority of the male population. And this heterogeneous mass of dynamic humanity was fused into the homogeneous body and became the people of Bradford.

The formative period is not far back. Many of the men referred to, and the children of others, are here today. Others of like character have from time to time recruited the gradually depleting ranks.

Of course, we have a narrow-minded, small-souled, penny-grubbing element. But the influence of this class is confined within very narrow limits. Progressiveness, public spirit, and breadth of view are still characteristics of the city.

Great Editor on Bradford

The editor of a prominent Philadelphia journal visited Bradford a few years ago. He was entertained socially and he participated in semi-public functions. As he was about to leave the city, after a visit of several days, he said to the writer:

"Bradford amazes me. It is unlike any other inland city I have ever visited. It seems wholly free of provincialism. Socially and in the indefinable things which mark the essential cosmopolite, Bradford people are abreast of the best element in the large cities. I am surprised at the democracy, the mental liberality, the wide acquaintance with the world and the up-to-datedness of the people I have met socially and in a business way. The capacity shown by your business men in managing vast enterprises, some of them of worldwide extent is wonderful."

This candid opinion, by an unbiased and competent observer, epitomizes facts which in their amplified form explain Bradford.

LET'S GO TO THE SHOW!

I recently did a lot of research on past theaters and opera houses, as requested by BCPAC (Bradford Creative and Performing Arts Center) which moved from the Seneca building down to Main Street, near the Chamber of Commerce office and the movie house. I knew that there had been quite a few theaters, opera houses, movie houses, etc., but even I was surprised at the number of theaters in Bradford's history.

Many only existed for a short time, a few years or less; some were very small, and others held 600 or more people. It seems that even in the year days of Bradford, there was a keen interest in entertainment. Entertainment consisted of lecturers, singers, magicians, boxing matches, clowns, juggling, recitations, and the more common stage play, and many famous people came to Bradford as members of visiting troupes or as individual performers. Lilly Langtry, George M. Cohan, John L. Sullivan, Edwin Booth, Sarah Bernhardt, Boris Karloff, John Phillip Sousa, Roy Rogers, and others are just some of the famous people who came to Bradford to entertain us. Here is a list of the theaters:

Theater Comique (1877-1880) on Chambers Street. Burned in 1880.

The Alhambra (1878) On Mechanic Street, near the bridge. Never completed.

The Adelphi Theater (1878-1879), corner of Congress and East Corydon Streets

Academy of Music (1878-1880), on the corner of Main and Webster Streets. Burned.

The Gem Theater (1880-1912), Chambers Street. Converted to a horse stable.

The Wagner Opera House (1878-1903), on Main and Chambers Street.

The New Bradford Theater (1904-1958) later renamed **Sheas Theater** on South Avenue.

The Theatorium (1906-1910) at 29 Main Street.

The Star Continuous Show (1906-1912) 11 Main Street

The Star (1912-1919) 11 Main Street

The Strand (1919-1924) 11 Main Street.

The Peerless Theater (1907-1917), 115 Main Street.

The Grand (1910-1948), 29 Main Street.

The McKean Theater (1948-1963) 29 Main Street. Demolished 1998

Wonderland (1906-1907), 82 Main Street, later 54 Main Street.

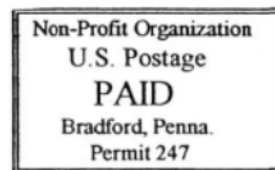
Dreamland (1906-1907), 54 Main Street.

Nickelodeon (approx. 1906-1907) Corner Main & Webster Streets.

Worsley's Opera House (1878) Derrick City



Bradford Landmark Society
PO Box 1021
45 E. Corydon Street
Bradford PA 16701



Return Service Requested



AND STILL THEY COME! RECENT ACQUISITIONS.

Even though the Bradford Landmark Society is only open on Friday mornings, people who wish to donate items to the historical society manage to find us! And it is with great appreciation that we recently accepted the following gifts to the Herbig Bakery.

1. From John Place - Two in-depth and detailed scrapbooks covering the Bradford High School football team, 1953-1956. Compiled by Andy Zetts, and given to his son, Jim Zetts in December 1956, the scrapbooks contain sport schedules, programs, newsprint photographs of the teams, just about every newspaper clipping generated about the teams during those years.
2. From Ken Johnson – three bound ledger books dating from 1937, from Johnson's Gas Station (and no relation to Ken Johnson and formerly located where Togi's Restaurant is today). These hand written ledgers list customers, prices, and payments and are wonderful examples of bookkeeping methods of a small business.
3. From Louise Stoltz – a millennium edition of the Bradford Era, dated January 1, 2000 and a Bradford Journal from August 19, 1971 which included a special Oil Centennial edition.
4. From Peggy Johnson – a White House Cookbook, **1905 The White House Cook Book** by Mrs. Gillette & Hugo Ziemann Saalfeld, featuring recipes from First Ladies. Delicious!
5. From Linda Lamborn – a good collection of bedside nursing equipment (think bed pan, invalid cup), probably from the 1930s. All white enamel, all in good shape.
6. From Rob Denning, his grandmother's framed copy of the BHS class trip to Mount Vernon in 1939.