

A Newsletter for Friends of the Bradford Landmark Society



The Inkwell



November 2023

PO Box 1021, 45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

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We're back! Well, actually, we never left, just took a hiatus from sending out newsletters and such. But that doesn't mean that we haven't been busy, researching, collecting, and interpreting Bradford history. We have lots of news which we will share in this newsletter, and hope to keep you informed.

But first, we must report that one of our own has passed away. Harrijane Hannon Moore, longtime Chairman and President of the Bradford Landmark Society Board of Directors, died on September 29, 2023 after a short illness. She was 84 years old.

Harrijane was active in local politics, serving as a Bradford City Councilwoman (elected 1985), as a McKean County commissioner (elected in 1987) and as Register of Wills and Orphans Court (1997) in the McKean County Courthouse. She was very active in the local community as well, serving on the board of directors of Bradford YWCA, Bradford Regional Medical Center, Futures Rehabilitation Center, the Friendship Table, Bradford Area Public Library, Evergreen Elm, Bradford Housing Authority, ELF Fund Senior Bus Trip chairman, and Salvation Army.

She was nominated as a Bradford Landmark Society Board member in April 1999 and served on that Board for 24 years, most recently as its president. Her leadership and advice will be missed.



One of my favorite pictures of Harrijane Hannon Moore, center, seen here with Anne Esch, left, and Judy Yorks, right. Taken at the Baked Food Tent at the Crook Farm Country Fair in 2012, the three women, all good friends, seem to be having fun.

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What's Happening Down on the Farm?

Crooktop 2023

Crook Farm hosted the annual "Crooktop" Old time Music Festival in late August. This fun four-day festival welcomed nearly 100 musicians, as well as countless visitors for singing, dancing and country jamming.



2023

Events kicked off Thursday evening with a Classic Country Jam held in the upstairs of the Farm's Bank Building where musicians kept the crowd clapping and foot-tapping along well into the night. Friday brought a full house back to the Bank building for an evening of community dancing. The dance floor was packed, as dancers were led through countless rounds of square dancing, called by Ron Buchanan. Visitors to the farm on Saturday were met with many jam sessions spread throughout the grounds and a Vintage Mississippi Fiddle Tune Workshop hosted by Harry Bolick. Finally, after a long weekend of dancing, jamming, camping and

relaxation, the festival rounded out it's musical events with a traditional Gospel Music sing along. Crooktop will return to the farm in August of 2024.

Meet Our New Crook Farm Coordinator, Chelsea Schwab!

Crook farm has a new coordinator! Chelsea Schwab began her role as coordinator for Crook Farm on August 1st. She is looking forward to bringing the farm and its history to more people through new events, fun educational experiences, and more. Schwab is a Bradford native and graduate of Penn State, where she majored in Community and Economic Development with a concentration in Historic Preservation and Restoration. Like many locals, she was first introduced to Crook Farm through the School Days field trip as a fifth grader. The unique experience the School Days program provided with hands on learning of 19th century rural life inspired in her a love for history that remains today. The School Days program was also Schwab's introduction to volunteering with Crook Farm as an interpreter for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Holiday Wreath Classes

As the holiday season approaches, preparations are being made at the farm to welcome visitors for new and exciting winter events. First on the list of these events will be Christmas Wreath making classes. This event returns by popular demand after a successful run in 2022. This year, there will be 6 classes held at the Bank building in late November and early December. Here participants will learn to create beautiful holiday wreaths made with natural greenery. Nearly 100 participants have registered for this beloved event, and plans are underway to see an even larger event for 2024!

Crook Farm will also be partnering with Graham's Greenhouse for a Boxwood centerpiece class on November 19th. Watch for more information.



Christmas with the Crooks



The inaugural "Christmas with the Crooks" event is scheduled for Sunday December 3rd. Visitors to the farm can see the farmhouse decorated in period Christmas style, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, visit with Santa at the Bank, create a children's craft and more. More information is coming!

Hope to see you on the farm this holiday season!



The Creative Women Workshop

The tenth annual Creative Women Workshop event was held Saturday, September 9 at the Crook Farm, and although it was raining, all the women who came said that they didn't mind the rain because it was so much fun. We had 52 women brave the elements to attend. Classes included: arranging wildflowers, blacksmithing, yoga, dollar bill origami, making greeting cards, color pencil art, fabric pumpkins, kitchen towels, sock kittens, broom stick lace, and making Morse Code bracelets.

There were several suggestions offered for the event next year, possibly changing the date, or holding a special Holiday Workshop in late October as well as a summer Workshop in July.

Welcome Home, Weathervane!

Not every historical Society has a twelve-foot weathervane inside their building – but we do! This tall weather vane, now 132 years old, once stood on top of the old Erie & Lackawanna Railroad passenger station on Main Street. The Landmark Society was recently gifted this amazing weathervane, which now stands proudly in the front room of the Society at 45 E. Corydon Street. Its had an amazing history - stop in and learn all about it!



Bradford Landmark Society Membership matters!

The continued growth and development of the Landmark Society and the preservation of the Crook Farm depends upon the support of the community it serves. Please choose a level of membership that shows your support. Thank you.

Level of Membership	Dues
Single Membership	\$15.00
Family Membership	\$25.00
Patron Membership	\$50.00
Business & Sponsorship Membership	\$100.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please mail this application to The Bradford Landmark Society

(or stop in). We accept cash, check, or money order, payable to

Bradford Landmark Society, PO Box 1021, 45 East Corydon St., Bradford, PA 16701.

Want to pay by credit card or Paypal? Please go to our web page at

www.bradfordlandmark.org and click on the "Supporting Us" button on the left,

then click on "Membership." It's that simple!

The Hotel Holley

Now known as the OYO hotel, the old Holley Hotel at 153 Main Street has seen better days. It's been in the news a lot lately for extensive building, health and safety code violations and its rooming house license has been suspended until such issues are resolved.

It wasn't always so. For many years the Holley Hotel was the epitome of luxurious accommodations.

Located on the corner of Davis Street and Main Street, the Holley Hotel was the second hotel found here. The first hotel, known as the Riddell House (newspapers described it as mammoth but it had only three stories) opened in July 1878 but was badly damaged by a fire in November 1878. That fire, historically known as 'The Great Fire' destroyed 40 buildings throughout the city but the framework of the Riddell House survived and it was soon rebuilt in brick.



The original Holley Hotel in 1901.

Another fire in 1899 burned the Riddell House again and this time Frank P. Holley, who had bought the Riddell House from Geroge Riddell in 1885, realized that the latest fire had so badly damaged the structure that repairs would be too expensive to contemplate.

On Christmas Day in 1899 he decided to erect a new, modern fireproof hotel in its place, and name it "The Holley" in honor of his family name.

Choosing E.N. Unruh as architect, Holley specifically required that all the furniture, wardrobes, curtains, carpets, plumbing, and decorations for the new hotel were to be purchased from Bradford merchants. The entire wood work in the building, except for the bar and fireplace mantels, were bought from the Bovaird & Seyfang Manufacturing company, and the brick was manufactured at Melvin's brick factory, at Lewis Run. The entire cost of construction, including all interior furnishings, was \$125,000.



The Holley Hotel with fifth floor added in 1931.

When the Holley Hotel formally opened on July 21, 1901, it was described as a "finely designed four-story fire-proof structure, equipped with modern conveniences and appliances. The rooms are wainscoted with mahogany and oak, the walls and ceilings being furnished in pure white, which is the prevailing finish throughout the building. All throughout the entire structure the same elegance and richness are apparent. Elevator and stairs make access to the upper apartments easy. The corridors are wide and ceilings high. All modern conveniences are at hand. Heated by steam and gas and lighted by electricity, with scientifically correct methods of sanitation, water distribution, etc., the new Holley is an ideal hotel home for its patrons.

The hotel is supplied with 75 sleeping apartments, elegantly furnished and so arranged that each is an outside room".

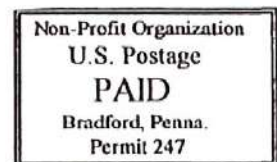
Holley sold the Hotel in January 1928 to Robert Fulton (who would later own the Hooker-Fulton building with Clarence Hooker) and he sold it to John C. Looker in 1929. Looker immediately announced an extensive remodeling program, including adding another floor to the building and interior improvements. Cost would be \$110,000. The firm of Laurie & Green, which would design the Hooker-Fulton building a year later, was chosen as architects.

For many years the Holley Hotel lived up to its reputation as a quality hotel, but changing times and habits of motoring travelers caused its slow decline. For a time, in the 1990s, it was even erroneously renamed "The Riddell House" although the Holley really had no connection to that old hotel.

In 2020 a new owner took over, and the Holley is now named "OYO" which, it has been said, stands for "On Your Own." As of this newsletter, the future history of the Holley Hotel, once described as magnificent and one of the finest hostelrys in the state, is unknown.

The Landmark Society is currently open on Friday mornings, from 9AM to 4PM, although special arrangements can be made for individual appointments. 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.

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Return Service Requested

