

A Newsletter for Friends of the Bradford Landmark Society



# The Inkwell



March 2025

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

814-362-3906

## Board of Directors:

Alex Caruso  
Anne Bouquin  
Howard Blumenthal  
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Sally Costik  
  
Crook Farm  
Coordinator  
Chelsea Schwab  
  
Genealogist  
Molly Lindahl

## Inside this issue:

Coming Events in 2025

Citizen Archivist

Chronology of  
Businesses, Buildings

Wow, its 2025 already, and has been 25 years since the turn of the century! Remember those crazy times, when everyone thought that computers would crash and basically, the world as we knew it would end, all because of the date turning over two zeros? How little faith we had!

The Bradford Landmark Society had faith, though. This is part of our mission statement: **to promote interest in the history of the Tuna Valley by acquiring and preserving artifacts and by presenting its heritage.** And we've been at it for 56 years.

The Landmark Society was founded in 1969 by a group of concerned Bradford residents who feared that the rich history of the early oil country heritage in the Tuna Valley was being forgotten—left to gather dust in attics, basements, and garages.

At the time, Bradford was undergoing major urban renewal. Progress was inevitable, but it was also unsettling. The construction of Route 219 over Main Street and through town meant older buildings were being demolished, landscapes were changing, and with them, pieces of history were disappearing.

Recognizing the urgency of preserving Bradford's past, 37 residents gathered for a public meeting on May 14, 1969, at the Carnegie Public Library (now Beefeaters). By the end of that meeting, the Bradford Landmark Society was officially established. An organizational committee was formed to draft bylaws and appoint officers, and by July, the society was incorporated. The call then went out to the community: bring us your historical treasures.

The response was overwhelming. Bradford's forgotten spaces held a wealth of history—old photographs, diaries, letters, books, newspapers, advertising memorabilia, maps, journals, vintage clothing, and artifacts. The donations poured in, and they continue to this day, ensuring that the past is not just remembered but preserved for future generations.

And not just the Herbig bakery – the Crook Farm was purchased by the Landmark Society in 1974. The farmhouse, probably the oldest dwelling in the Bradford area, was accepted on the Pennsylvania Register that year, and on the National Register of Historic Places the following year.

Not just a fascinating historical site, its also used for many wonderful events each year, so please

*check out the list of events to be held this summer at the Farm!*

*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](mailto:info@bradfordlandmark.org) or by calling 814-362-3906.*



# 2025 Events



**Beaver Day-Spring Clean**

**May 3rd**

**Barn & Yard Sale**

**May 24**

**Museum & Market Day**

**June 14**

**Patriotic Concert & Picnic**

**June 29**

**Summer Creative Women**

**Workshop**

**July 26**

**Crooktop Music Festival**

**August 21-24**

**Fall Creative Women**

**Workshop**

**September 27**

**Harvest Festival**

**October 18**

**Holiday Wreath Classes**

**November 29th**

**December 1, 6 & 8**

**Crook's Country Christmas**

**December 7**

**Paper Copy or Email? Your Choice.**

If you would like your copy of The Inkwell delivered via email rather a paper copy coming to you please send us your request to [info@bradfordlandmark.org](mailto:info@bradfordlandmark.org). We will be happy to comply.

It seems that more and more things are being sent this way, and never let it be said that Bradford Landmark Society is old fashioned!

If you want to continue to receive a paper copy in the USPS mail, just do nothing and things will remain the same, at least for now.

## ***Chronology of the Buildings***

*During the year, the Bradford Landmark Society tries to keep track 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.*

*What is a chronology, anyway? Well, according to the 'Britannica' (the old Encyclopedia Britannia, remember that?) defines it as: **Chronology**, any method used to order time and to place events in the sequence in which they occurred. The systems of chronology used to record human history, which are closely related to calendar systems, vary in scope, accuracy, and method according to the purpose, degree of sophistication, and skills of the peoples using them.*

Yep, that sounds just about right...

### **Opened!**

**On the Side Books**, Kennedy Street, reopened in April 2024

**So Smooth Electrolysis**, 1020 East Main Street, May 2024

**Field Street Boots & Tin Ceiling Gift Shoppe**, Main Street, June 2024

**RPM Automotive Repair LLC**, Automotive repair shop, 56 Thompson Avenue, opened in July 2024

**Bradford Soap Box**, Mechanic Street, opened for business on August 2024

**Sweet City Suite**, Air BnB, Boylston Street, August 2024

**YWCA** opens its new facility on Congress Street, August 1, 2024

**The Escape Aqua Massage and Infrared Therapy Spa** opened at 46 N. Kendall Ave. September 2024

**Barb's Boutique** at 121 Main St. Oct. 2024

**Cummins Country Charm**, 24 Main Street, reopened in October 2024

**Timeless Treasures**, owned by Sheryl Silvis, and **Iris & Ivy Boutique**, owned by Taylor Grandinetti, are located at 4 Boylston Street. November 2024

**Uncleshade's Undercoating**, 535 East Main Street, opened in November 2024

**Aesthetic Nail Co.** recently relocated to the fifth floor of the Hooker Fulton Building at 123 Main Street. Nov. 2024

**Kentucky Fried Chicken** opened in July 2024 on West Washington Street

**Cosmos Lounge**, 435 East Main Street, opened Dec. 31; grand opening on January 31, 2025.

### **Closed, Sold, or Demolished**

**Enterprise Car rental**, Foster Brook Blvd., closed in 2024.

**Waffled Up**, 62 Chambers Street, opened in July 2023, closed last spring, 2024.

**Lizzie Jane Co.**, 24 Main Street, closed August 2024

**Our Mother of Perpetual Help**, a Catholic church at 35 Lafayette Avenue, Lewis Run was sold the first week of December 2024, to Ignite Church, which is an independent church.

**Marsh's Bar** on the corner of Interstate Parkway and West Washington Street, was demolished on Dec. 11.

**St. Bernard Catholic Church** closed April 1, for renovations, which took all year. The church reopened on December 18, just in time for Christmas.

### **Name Change**

Long known as simply **Gilbert Reservoir**, Bradford City Water Authority's reservoir No. 2 was renamed in honor of longtime authority treasurer Richard Luther, Sr. on June 1, 2024.

*And we are already compiling things for next year!*

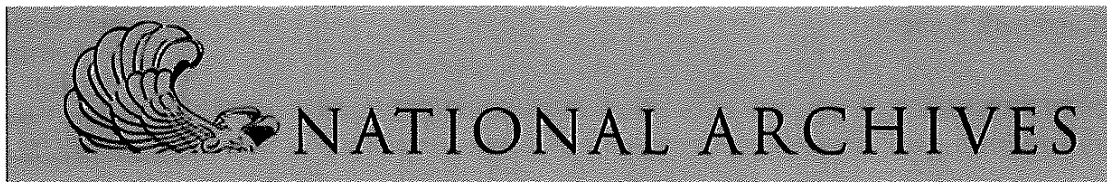
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### **Happy Birthday, or is its Happy Anniversary?**

Congratulations to Bradford High School, which officially for classes in the fall of 1925. The high school will host a summer long 'museum' of sorts at the school and will be holding an official celebration in April.

The location of the high school was chosen after careful consideration of four sites; one on Jackson Avenue, one off East Main Street, and another one where Hanley Park is now located, but the site on Interstate parkway, then called Bennett Brook Road, known as the "Baker Lot" was deemed ideal. The Era wrote "the outlook from this site is cheerful and the stream running through the property could be turned into an asset by the erection of a swimming pool. This is by far the best site, and if it were not for its distance from the center of the city, it would be the only place to locate the school. The ground is practically level and presents no difficult problem for the erection of the building or an athletic field. Those who would be required to walk a long distance are few, and if the choice is made with the view to do the greater good for the greatest number, this site should be chosen."

And the rest is history!



## Looking for a fun hobby? Able to read old handwriting? Curious? Become a Citizen Archivist for the National Archives!

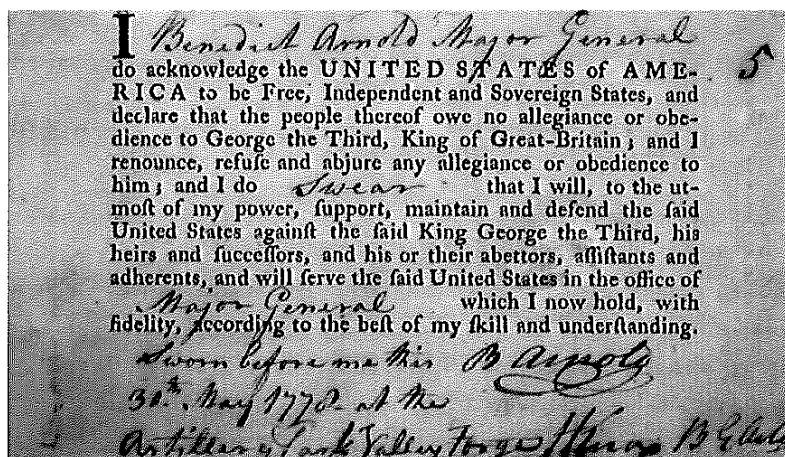
The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the Government agency that identifies, preserves, and provides access to the U.S. Government's vast holdings of archival materials. The archival holdings number more than 12 billion pages of unique documents plus electronic material, maps, charts, aerial and still photographs, artifacts, as well as motion picture, sound, and video recordings.

The NARA has committed to digitize 500 million pages of records and make them available online to the public through the National Archives Catalog by September 30, 2026. And you can help!

They are looking for volunteers who can read cursive and type and are willing and able to transcribe old documents. And I am talking about some old documents.

The National Archive encourages volunteers to transcribe a variety of historical documents including handwritten letters, memos, reports, pension files from the Revolutionary War, records related to World War II, documents concerning the Chinese Exclusion Era, and even UFO-related records, essentially aiming to make primary sources more accessible by converting them to searchable text through transcription.

It's called the **Citizen Archivist program**. You can make contributions to the National Archives Catalog to enhance access and discoverability by transcribing historical documents, tagging archival photographs, or sharing comments with other community members.

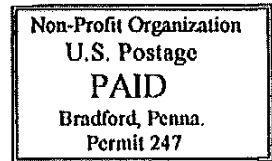


Here is some information from the website [www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist](http://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist).

First, you have to sign in at [login.gov](http://login.gov) and register to become a citizen archivist. There are tons of information on the site to get you started, and how to do it. It can be overwhelming at first, but if you would like to give it a chance, stick with it. I have read some of the transcripts that are already done, and they are fascinating.

Once registered, there is information on how to transcribe, tips on reading old cursive writing, how to submit your work, and other useful tips. All it takes is time, a computer or laptop, and the ability to read old rec

**Bradford Landmark Society**  
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Return Service Requested

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### **It made the news, 100 years ago...**

- The Golf Club plans to build new clubhouse on their new course (will become Pennhills.) 7/1/1925
- Road from Bradford to Kane will be opened on July 30 with 4 towns taking part in the ceremony.  
7/15/1925
- Ku Klux Klan issued a permit for a parade on August 1. The marchers will be robed but visors will be raised and faces plainly visible. 7/14/1925
- Bradford awarded light field gun captured from Germans in WW1. It is suggested that it be placed in Public Square. 9/20/1925
- Frank Fidele of Bradford (37 E. Main St.) is shot to death at Limestone while seated at the wheel of his car. Police believe the shooting is the result of feud arising from the liquor traffic. 6/29/1925
- Construction on a new addition to the McKean County Children's home at Foster Brook was started. The new building will be two stories in height and of gray stucco finish. 7/28/1925
- Italian Mutual Aid Society building in Lewis Run is dedicated. 2/9/1925
- Bradford man, Archie Williams of Jackson Ave. had fatal accident while coupling cars near Mill St. crossing. Head and legs severed by wheels, torso mangled. 2/10/1925
- The Emery Hardware Company has been robbed. 7/29/1925

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## Inside this issue:

Coming Events at the  
Crook Farm this summer

How is the Scanning  
Project Coming Along?

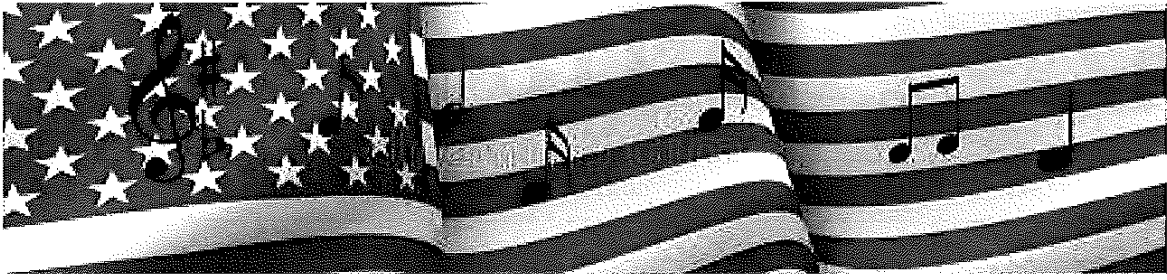
Former Board Members  
Now Emeritus

Speaking of Baseball

Hard to imagine that this is actually Main Street, Bradford, about 1865. For years, I thought this photo was mislabeled. In 1865, Bradford is barely a town, and yet this photograph, taken from what is now Veterans' Square (that's Mount Raub in the background.) As Dick Robertson always used to say, "you can't move the hills." He often would identify a location by the hills in the background. Anyway, several years ago I found an article in the Bradford Era that described this photograph exactly – and yes, it is from 1865!

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## *Coming Events at the Crook Farm this Summer!*



### **Patriotic & Popular Music, Sunday, June 29 at 2 PM**

Kick off your Fourth of July week with the songs that celebrate America. Patriotic and popular music will be performed by the Twin Tiers Community Band. Bring a lawn chair, or picnic blanket and enjoy a beautiful open-air concert! Concessions available for purchase, or bring your own picnic lunch.

**FREE ADMISSION!**



*Crook Farm, 476 Seaward Avenue in Bradford. See you there!*



### **CROOKTOP MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Beginning August 21 at 4PM, and ending  
on August 24 at 4PM

You may have seen all the campers, tents and trailers parked at the Crook Farm and wondered what was going on. Well, it was Crooktop, the annual bluegrass/country music get-together.

**Crooktop®** is focused on the traditional, Old Time acoustic music community. Many musicians come to jam & camp at the Crook Farm at 476 Seaward Avenue with their friends over 4 fun filled days.

- \*Welcoming Jam & Song Tents
- \*Workshops & Dances (Fri Dance)
- \*Shaded & Open (rough) Camping
- \*Showers \*Pet Friendly
- \*Food Truck + Saturday evening Potluck
- \*Sunday Gospel Sing

## *Come on in, and sit a spell...*

You know, anyone and everyone is welcome to stop into the Landmark Society at 45 East Corydon Street on any Friday. We will gladly find you a place to sit, old newspapers to read, things to look at, or just give you a tour of the place! Don't think "I'd feel out of place" because believe me, we get it. We are just as interested in history as you are.

We always get the same reaction – "Wow! I never knew the Landmark had all this stuff! Well, in a manner of speaking, it's *your* history that we keep. All the books, papers, photographs, documents, advertising memorabilia, clothing, toys, glassware, tools, yearbooks, and all the rest, represent the history of Bradford and its people.

Sure, we have a lot of "stuff" but we love to share it. So, any Friday, feel free to stop in.

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## *How is the Scanning Project Going?*

Over a year ago in March 2024, Joyce Cline volunteered to be our 'scanner' at the Landmark. We had recently acquired an overhead Scansnap scanner, and had a whole pile of things that we thought should be digitally persevered. (and we keep finding even more things). Joyce has been at it ever since. Here is a list of those items that were scanned over the past 15 months or so. Now, some of these actually have dozens and dozens of pages, and each page must be separately scanned. It's quite an accomplishment and a big job. So, thanks, Joyce!

1. St. Bernard Centennial Celebration 1980
2. Hooker-Fulton Prospectus for sale, 1957
3. Bradford Area Chamber of Commerce Booklets – 1960s and 1970
4. Citizen Hose Company minute books, 1878, 1879, 1887-1891, 1903
5. Bradford Land Records, late 1800s
6. Fire Department Police Calls book, 1903-1914
7. Bradford Era articles on McCrory's fire, July 20, 1967
8. City Assessment, 1934
9. Roslinski Survey field books
10. Autobiography of a Valley by Louella Harris, 1938
11. Emery Hotel menus
12. Option House scrapbook
13. Pulse Magazines, 1949-1950
14. Buffalo Dauntless Club Statistics book, 1925
15. BAHS 100<sup>th</sup> graduation supplement
16. Johnson Hose Company meeting book, c. 1881
17. Contract book, 1900-1908
18. Sheas and other Theaters
19. Era Hook and Ladder Fire Company ledger, 1878
20. Central Hose roll call book, 1889
21. Big 30 All Star Football Game Programs, 1975, 2016, 2021-2024
22. Bradford Answers Floods, 197
23. Central Hose, 1898-1902
24. Glimpses of Limestone, 1877-1977

An overhead scanner allows us to more or less "take a picture" of the document, without having to physically push it through a machine. This scanner is especially useful to scan bound books, when normal copying might damage their spines.

25. Fire Records, 1887-1897, 1897-1909
26. Letterheads & Billheads, various years
27. Historical Data of McKean County, 1804-1970
28. McKean County Rifle Club articles, 1931-1939
29. The Home and School Visitor, 1931-1966
30. Liberty Hose, or Fifth Ward Hose book, 1892
31. The Junior Hi-Lite, 1962-1990
32. Store Credit worthiness cards, Auerhaim store, 1911-1920
33. Football, Bradford, 1909-1931-1952-1954
34. BRMC East Wing, May 1992
35. VNA, Vital Signs, Vol. IV, 1987
36. Life Line, Bradford Hospital, 1971-1982
37. St. Bernard Elementary
38. Junior High School Annual
39. Folio 60 – Creative Writings
40. Bundles for Britain, minute book, 1940
41. Casey's Opening, 12-1-1986
42. Census of Children, Lafayette Twp., 1932-1935, 1937
43. Bradford Era calendars, 1944-2025
44. The Erie Triangle
45. City Limits Magazine, 1947-1979
46. Corydon Township Fire Auxiliary calendar, 1968
47. Misc. Calendars
48. Misc. documents

All of these are now safely scanned and stored on a dedicated computer hard drive, to insure their preservation.

The original paper documents are also safely stored away

Take for example, the book "Bradford Answers Floods". (No. 22 on the list). Written in 1947, it was published only one month after the disastrous flood of April 1947. It's an in-depth study of that particular flood, with charts, photographs, interviews with store owners who were flooded, etc. This book proved to be the impetus for flood control in Bradford.

Or the store credit cards from the Auerhaim Dept. store (No. 32 on the list) now the Forest Oil building. Each index card gives the person's name, and whether or so they were a good credit risk. There are hundreds of these cards! Hard to imagine that such records were kept so accurately.

Teachers might find The Home and School Visitor (No. 29) interesting. It gives information on the county schools, teachers, when built, salaries, etc.

Bundles for Britain (No. 40) was a charitable group in Bradford organized by Grace Emery which shipped clothing, medical supplies, and bedding from the United States to help war-torn British citizens.

# Speaking of Baseball...

Nowadays, the sports section of the Bradford Era covers all sorts of sports: basketball, football, hockey, baseball, etc. Back in the spring of 1922, with baseball becoming a national pastime (Babe Ruth asked for the unimaginable pay rate of \$60,000 that year!), the Era decided to feature a special section by John B. Sheridan titled "Lessons in Baseball." Sheridan was a St. Louis sportswriter from 1888 to 1929 and was considered an authority on baseball, football, boxing and golf. He wrote a book "Baseball for Beginners" from which the Era took its information.

The Bradford Era posted the following lessons among others during the summer of 1922.

## BASEBALL LESSONS FOR THE BABE RUTHS OF THE FUTURE.

The baseball season will soon be here. The big Leaguers are training in their several camps and the words "Play ball" will soon be heard from ocean to ocean. The home boys are beginning to warm up and longing for Spring to roll around. As an aid to amateurs, the Era begins this morning a series of baseball lessons by J.B. Sheridan, author of Baseball for Beginners. Every boy should read them.

How to Stand on the Rubber (Lesson 3)

The Follow Through (Lesson 39)

Always Run 'Em Out (Lesson 38)

Acquiring Control (Lesson 12)

Keep Your Eye on the Ball (Lesson 35)

Play on the Official Diamond (Lesson 3)

Fundamentals of Play at Shortstop (Lesson 65)

Ready to Field (Lesson 10)

Selecting the Right Bat (Lesson 26)

Central Fielder Should be Fast (Lesson 72)

The Correct Position at the Plate (Lesson 30)

### LESSONS IN BASEBALL

by J.B. SHERIDAN  
AUTHOR OF BASEBALL FOR BEGINNERS

Copyright, 1922, by the International Syndicate  
LESSON NO. 29  
THE WAGGLE

Players will waggle, that is move the bat to and fro, while waiting delivery of the ball. Many players jerk the bat to and fro, shake it at the pitcher, violently, nervously. Other players hold the bat on the shoulder while waiting the pitch. Still others waggle it to and fro, at the level of the belt.

The quick nervous, shaking of the bat at the pitcher betokens a nervous batter and often one afraid. So it is a bad sign even if Larry Doyle, a real good hitter shook the bat nervously as he abided the pitch. The good hitters, as a rule, waggle the bat slowly to and fro at the belt, never permitting it to go far ahead of the line of the forward foot. The cool, courageous hitters always use a slow, easy, confident waggle.

The best authorities favor the line of the belt as the best place for the waggle. When the bat is carried slowly to and fro at the belt the batter is in position to hit any sort of a ball, high, low or in the middle, that may come along. If the bat is held on the shoulder and waggled when the pitcher may slip a fast ball over at the knee. If the bat is waggled too low, a high fast one may beat the bat swing.

The batter should never let the waffle carry him too far towards the pitcher. The batter who shakes the bat in front of him will have to rush back for his swing. If the pitcher shoots one at him, that will throw him off balance and the



**HOW CHAMPION SISTER WAGGLES HIS BAT**

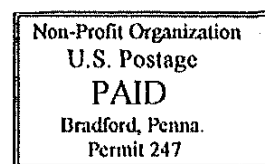
This is a speaking picture of how the greatest hitter of today holds his bat. Note that the bat is carried at the line of the belt and that Sister grips the bat with hands close together, the forefinger of the right hand slightly overlapping the little finger of the left hand. It would not be easy to improve upon this bat grip and stance.

Speaker has an almost perfect waggle. He moves the bat slowly to and fro at the line of the belt, keeps the bat well behind him and is always ready to hit anything that may come along. Sister's position at the bat, step, waggle, all his batting habits, are well worthy of the observation of young players.

**NEXT LESSON** The Correct Position at the Plate.

Now, it sure seems that if you followed his suggestions, you'd be a great ball player!

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## THREE FORMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS DESIGNATED AS EMERITUS

At the recent meeting of the Bradford Landmark Society Board of Directors, three former Board members were honored with the title of **Emeritus** in appreciation of their dedicated service to the Landmark Society. These honorees are Judy Yorks, who served on the Board since 2005; Linda Brocius, a member since 2011; and Margi Knox, who joined in 2018.

**Emeritus** status is an honorary designation given upon retirement or resignation, recognizing individuals for their distinguished service and lasting contributions during their active involvement.

Judy served as treasurer, while she, Linda, and Margi were deeply involved in activities at the Crook Farm, enthusiastically supporting the School Program, tending the flower gardens, and lending a hand at any event where help was needed.

While these women are no longer active members of the Board of Directors, we hope that they will continue to support the activities of the Landmark Society and the Crook farm.

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Yvonne Cattoni

## Herbig Bakery Curator & The Inkwell editor

Sally Costik

## Genealogist

Molly Lindahl

Summer is ending, and fall means changes. School has started, the days are growing shorter, gardens are dying off and soon trees will be turning. Here at the Landmark, we've had a great summer.

In this edition of The Inkwell, you will find a donor letter. Please read it. The Landmark depends on the kind donations of our community to continue exploring and maintaining our local history.

One of our projects has been to scan all the past newsletters (going back to 1975!) and all the Board of Director meeting minutes (going back to 1969!). As I read over those things, I was struck by how many people have been a part of the Landmark Society over the years. It just goes to show you that everyone has an interest in preserving the history of the Bradford area and the Tuna Valley.

We've had some interesting accessions at the Herbig Bakery, lately, too. A 1931 Sanborn Insurance Map book, a large photograph of the Onofrio family, a blue Bradford Hospital Nurse's cape, Big 30 programs from various years, a wedding dress, several glass plate negatives, Producer's Monthly magazine, dating from 1947, photographs of the 1956 graduating class of Bradford Hospital nurses, Bradford Era calendars, and a large box of items purchased from the Ralph Rose estate sale, including sheet music, small salesman bricks, local advertising memorabilia (ashtrays, matchbooks, playing cards, etc.), a 1950s era desk barometer, stereoviews of Bradford scenes, City Limits magazines, etc. And that is just from the past six weeks!

## Inside this issue:

Support/Donor letter

What's Happening at the  
Landmark?

Bradford Township Road  
Supervisors books

Happy Birthday Bank  
Building

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For over 50 years, the Bradford Landmark Society has fulfilled its mission of “*Preserving, Maintaining, and Sharing the Bradford Area’s Diverse History*” through the following efforts:

- **Preserving Historic Buildings** – We maintain one of Bradford’s oldest structures, the former Herbig Bakery (circa 1876), located in the city’s designated Historic District on East Corydon Street and which has been the headquarters of the Bradford Landmark Society since 1970.
- **Caring for Crook Farm** – Our 20-acre Crook Farm on Seward Avenue is a collection of nine buildings, including original 1880s buildings such as the Crook family homestead, barn, and schoolhouse as well as a blacksmith forge, carpenter shop, weavers’ shed, candle shop and storage barn. Each supports the site’s continued use as a vibrant community space. The Crook Farm house itself is proudly listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. We also partner with the Tuna Valley Trail Association to enhance access and enjoyment of the grounds.
- **Maintaining Our Archives** - We collect, preserve, and catalog an extensive archive of local history. This includes hundreds of Bradford newspapers, city directories, genealogical records, school yearbooks, documents, blueprints, maps, ledgers, photographs, clothing and artifacts that reflect the life and heritage of the Bradford area and surrounding Tuna Valley.
- **Engaging the Community Through Programs** – The Bradford Landmark Society hosts a wide range of events that bring history, music, and tradition to life. Highlights include:
  - Crook Farm School Program for area 4<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Homeschool Children’s Program
  - July 4th Music Celebration with the Twin Tiers Community Band
  - Crooktop Music Festival
  - Eclipse Party (special event)
  - Creative Women Workshop
  - Apple Harvest Festival
  - Holiday Wreath Classes
  - Annual Herbig Bakery Open House



In 2024, these programs welcomed more than **2,000 attendees!**

The Bradford Landmark Society is a non-profit organization that relies solely on the generosity of individual gifts, grants, and the dedication of our many volunteers. Every dollar you give directly supports building preservation, archival care, and community programs.

Your gift ensures that Bradford's history is preserved, celebrated, and shared with future generations. Together, we can provide care & maintenance for the next hundred years and keep our past alive and our community connected.

We ask for your support with a gift of \$10, \$20, \$50 or more. You can also make a monthly recurring gift for as little as \$5/month. Every gift—large or small—makes a difference!

To donate, please use the on-line form at our web page at [www.bradfordlandmark.org](http://www.bradfordlandmark.org), or mail a check:

Bradford Landmark Society  
PO Box 1021  
Bradford, PA 16701

Thank you.

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*Now celebrating our 56<sup>th</sup> year!*

As a donor to the Bradford Landmark Society, you will also receive a copy of **The Inkwell**, the newsletter of the Society. It can be delivered to you via email or by mail if you prefer; just include your mailing address with your donation.

**The Inkwell** plays an important role in keeping our donors, community, and friends of the Society informed and connected. Each issue highlights volunteer opportunities, upcoming events at the Crook Farm and the Herbig Bakery, stories from Bradford's history, notable acquisitions, visitors to the Society, and much more. Since 1975, our newsletter has been a vital part of sharing our mission and celebrating Bradford's history.



## WHAT HAPPENING AT THE LANDMARK SOCIETY?

Summer is nearly over, and the days are getting cooler. Fall is just ahead! So, what's been happening at the Crook Farm and the Herbig Bakery this summer?

- **June 29 at the Crook farm.** Everyone loved our annual Patriotic Band Concert & Picnic. Now in our 9<sup>th</sup> year, it grows more popular every year. Always held around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, it's a crowd pleaser!
- **Crooktop 2025 - August 21 – August 24 at the Crook farm.** This year set a new record for music lovers at the annual festival. It's all about the music, with musicians coming from all over the US for jam sessions, musician-led activities, workshops, instrument swaps, gospel singalongs, rough camping, and special memories.
- Coming soon, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Apple Harvest Festival** at the Crook Farm, October 18, from 12PM to 8PM. Fall vendors show, live country/ bluegrass music, living history museum and demonstrations, food trucks, apple cider pressing, and more! There is an admission charge.
- **Holiday Wreath Making Classes** at the Crook Farm are coming this November 29 and December 1, 6, and 8. Reservations go fast, so make yours early!
- **McKean County Fair, August 18–25.** The Bradford Landmark Society contributed a collection of photographs and information on approximately 14 prominent Bradford residents to the McKean County Historical Society's display at this year's county fair. The Historical Society maintains a small building beside the grandstand entrance, and the display was well presented and very educational!
- **Courthouse Display Cases, Smethport.** The Landmark Society has also been invited to take responsibility for one of the display cases in the McKean County Courthouse. These cases are located in the upper hallway, between the courtroom and the offices of the Recorder of Deeds, Prothonotary, and Register of Wills. Historically, the McKean County Historical Society maintained the displays in all eight cases. Going forward, they hope that different communities within the county will "adopt" a case, filling it with artifacts, photographs, and other materials that highlight the history and character of their area.

## **YOU MIGHT THINK THAT READING THE BRADFORD TOWNSHIP ROAD SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK FROM THE 1920s WOULD BE BORING.**

### **YOU WOULD BE WRONG.**

Joyce Cline, our intrepid document scanner at the Landmark, recently completed scanning the Bradford Township Road books. Just for fun, I picked one up and was fascinated by what I read. And I learned a few things, too!

These two volumes, 1914-1922 and 1922-1930, written in beautiful cursive handwriting, measure 10" x 13" and include the monthly meeting reports of the Road Supervisors of Bradford Township.

There were 43.1 miles of road in Bradford Township in the 1920s, many of which were unpaved, and petitions to have particular roads paved or maintained by the Township Road crews were popular topics in the minutes. Meeting after meeting discusses the cost of paving roads, who would pay for it, and how it would be done.

With the automobile becoming more and more popular, people were clamoring for better roads. The Pennsylvania State Highway Department was formed in 1911, basically to take the burden off townships and counties from improving, maintaining, and repairing State highways. McKean County and her townships, though, were responsible for local roads. Township Supervisors frequently asked for financial assistance from the State, but often, local residents would offer partial payment to have certain roads paved.

The supervisors decided such things as where, when, and what roads would be paved; how much the road crew workers would be paid, who was exonerated from paying road tax, what materials would be used, answered questions and complaints by township residents, paid outstanding bills, and so forth.

In 1922, the supervisors were E.E. Bryner, W.H. Emery (Chairman), and A. Keery. Each man was paid \$3 for every meeting they attended (not to exceed 13 meetings a year). That's about \$56 in 2025 money.

Wages for the road workers for the coming year would be Path Master (60 cents per hour), Tractor driver (50 cents per hour), teams (90 cents per hour), and labor (40 cents per hour).

The list of residents exonerated – and why - from paying road taxes was listed as well. Pages of names are given, followed by such varied reasons as: moved away, gone South, couldn't find, not of age, in Michigan, woodcutter left in April, very poor, moved west, refused, house burned, moved, have nothing, or dead.

Here are some of the interesting topics brought before the Supervisors.

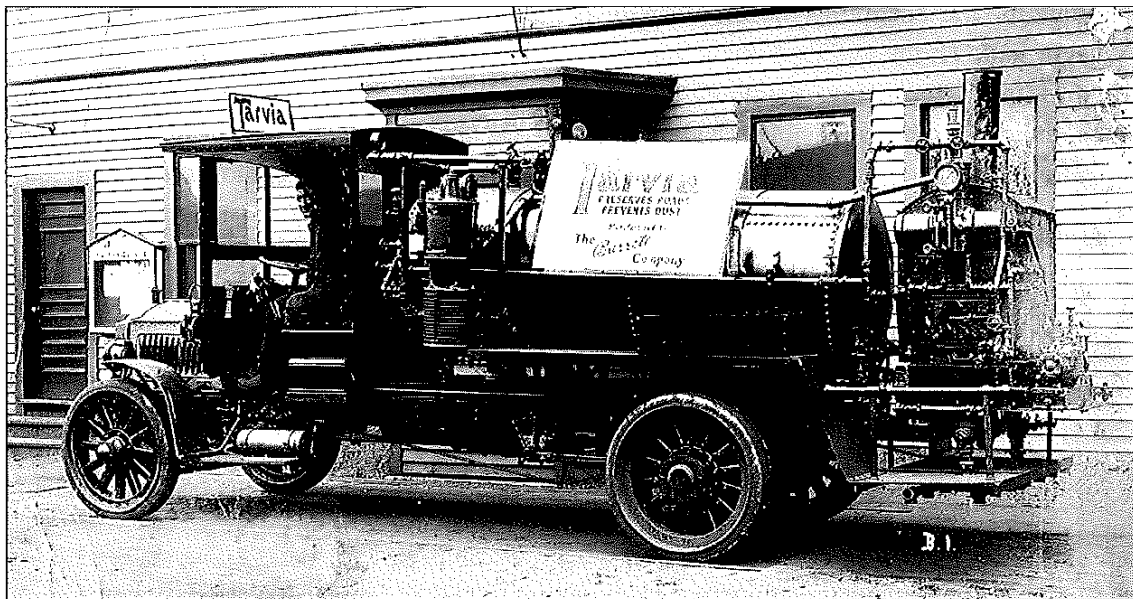
**August 4, 1924.** Earl Emery, acting on behalf of the North Penn Country Club, wanted to know how the Supervisors felt in regards to building an improved road up Minard Run, specifically to the golf club. Members of the club had pledged \$10,000 and hoped the Township would match it. He also knew a good contractor, and said that the club members would supervise the work if needed. Emery also planned to go to Harrisburg and meet with the State Highway Commissioner to get approval.

**December 21, 1925.** A special meeting was held with the Supervisors and several West Branch taxpayers, including W. H. Emery and Mr. Nusbaum, who petitioned the Board to improve West Corydon Street from the city line out to Hazelton Mills, a distance of about five miles. At the time, the road was still dirt. The Supervisors replied that the township could not afford the project. They noted that maintaining West Corydon Street already cost \$5,126 annually, while only \$2,724 was being assessed to taxpayers. After discussion, the Board agreed to construct one mile of slag road beginning at the city line, on the condition that \$8,000 be donated and placed in escrow to guarantee completion of the work.

**April 26, 1926.** A number of taxpayers from the Custer City area came before the Supervisors, asking to change the construction of the proposed improvement to the cross road at Custer City leading from the concrete road to the 'back road.' (Now known as East Warren Road.)

The taxpayers wanted the improved road to be reinforced concrete, not tarvia bound slag, believing the upkeep of a tarvia road was too expensive. A vote was taken, and it was unanimous, to make the change to concrete. Now, that puzzled me. What exactly was 'tarvia'?

### THE AGE OF MUD IS GIVING WAY TO THE AGE OF TARVIA!



Invented in 1903 by Samuel Barrett, "Tarvia" is a coal tar product used to pave and preserve dirt and gravel roads, particularly in the early 20th century. Barrett experimented with roofing tar as a treatment for brick, stone, and wooden block pavements. His "tarviated roads" were a cost-effective solution for creating and repairing roads. Barrett's advertising campaign boasted "Good roads at low cost," and "Mud Disappears Where Tarvia Enters!" The development of Tarvia drastically improved the nation's rural highways, contributing to the success of the automobile. It was frequently used in Bradford Township as well; even if the taxpayers of Custer City thought it cost too much.

## Speaking of cars....AUTOMOBILE BLUE BOOK, 1918

Several years ago, I was given the official "Automobile Blue Book 1918" which was basically one of the first road atlases published. The publisher said it was "a veritable motorist's encyclopedia" and it certainly is. Long before Rand McNally Road atlases, the road maps that we know (and long before our GPS told us how to navigate the roads), this little book gave all the pertinent information that a motorist might need to travel the roads of America.

Most roads – at least in our part of the county - weren't paved, and road maps and road signs as we know them today were scarce. So, this little book offered such sage advice as: turn at the dead tree, watch for the wooden church, turn at the store, steep grade ahead, iron bridge, etc.

For example, here is the advice for traveling from Bradford to Kane.

Route 442, Bradford to Kane, PA – 29.1 miles

*Practically all State road – gravel and clay, winding and hilly, with numerous RR crossings.*

- Bradford. Main Street & South Avenue. Park on the left. *(this is the Driving Park, on Congress Street, now the location of Zippo)*. Go south on South Avenue, joining trolley from left. Pass Country Club on the right. *(now the home of John Satterwhite)*.
- Custer City. 4 corners. Straight thru with trolley.
- Lewis Run. Straight thru across RR. Follow poles direct.
- Fork, keep right. Sign – "West Line." Cross RR and iron bridge.
- Fork, bear left. Sign "Kane." Caution for dangerous left curve upgrade. Avoid left-hand road and cross abandoned RR tracks beyond. Cross RR.
- Lafayette. Bear slightly left with poles. Cross RR 5 times.
- Kanesholm. Straight thru across RR. Avoid left hand road, cross RR. Pass Country Club on left and cross RR.
- Fork, bear right. (Do not cross RR here.) Cross RR, follow Biddle Street across RR.
- Edgar Street. Brick church on left, turn right.
- End of street, school on right, turn left on Greeves Street. KANE.

Oh, and the book also gives short history of some towns. Here is Bradford's:

Bradford, population 15,000, altitude 1417 feet. The center of Pennsylvania oil industry. It also produces large quantities of wood alcohol, charcoal and shale brick. The English at one time marched through Bradford in a small army to Fort Duquesne. Fifteen miles south of the city may be seen the famous Kinzua bridge, which is 301 feet high and spans from one range of mountains to another.

*English marched through Bradford? Not sure where they got that information!*

## Bradford Landmark Society

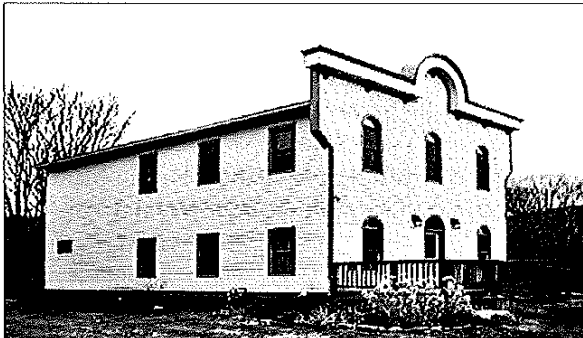
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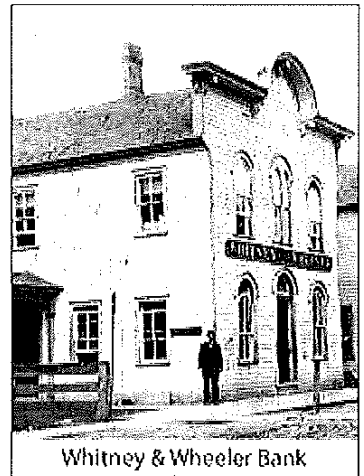
Return Service Requested

## Happy Birthday Bank Building at the Crook Farm!

Everybody recognizes the Bank Building at the Crook Farm - but did you know it turns 25 years old this year? Built in 2000 as a replica of one of Bradford's earliest banks, the Tuna Valley Bank, also known as the Whitney Wheeler bank, has become a well-used and familiar part of the historic farmstead. The original Tuna Valley Bank, once stood on Mechanic Street, right next to the St. James Hotel. It was erected in 1878 by oil producers Charles S. Whitney and Samuel A. Wheeler, who saw an opportunity to meet the financial needs of Bradford during the booming oil years. For a time, their bank thrived. But in 1884, when



the New York City financial firm of Grant and Ward collapsed - a company in which Whitney and Wheeler had invested heavily - the Tuna Valley Bank was forced to close its doors. Five years later the two men dissolved their partnership and left Bradford. The original bank building was torn down in 1890.



Whitney & Wheeler Bank



# The Inkwell



December 2025

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

814-362-3906

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## **Special Events & Marketing Coordinator**

Kellie Hopkins

## **Inside this issue:**

- \*Meet Kellie Hopkins
- \*Apple Harvest Fest
- \*Chronology of the  
Buildings, 2025
- \*Courthouse Display
- \*Asking Your Support
- \*Wreck of Edmund  
Fitzgerald
- \*Christmas Party

## **Oh, the Times They Have Changed. I Saw a Post on Facebook That Gave Me an idea – How Many Do You Remember?**

- Black and white television (my mother won a color television in 1962, but the only shows in color were Hazel and Bonanza).
- Dial phones (Bell Telephone gave fake phones to our school, so that we could practice dialing, and how to politely answer the phone). And paper phone books, of course!
- Drive in Movie Theaters (remember the one near Limestone?)
- A phone hanging on the wall in the kitchen.
- A foot push button on the floor of the driver's side of the car, to change high and low beams.
- Television stations signing off at 1PM after playing the national anthem, then putting up a test pattern. Test patterns themselves, are a sign of the times!
- Door to door salesmen. I remember the Fuller Brush man coming to my grandmother's house on Edward Street.
- Riding in the back of a pickup truck.
- No seat belts in cars.
- Cigarette machines in the grocery stores.
- Girls required to wear skirts or dresses in school
- Ash trays in cars.
- Glass shampoo bottles
- One of our cars had a velvet rope across the back seat; called a robe cord, it was originally designed to hold a warm lap blanket, and later used by people as a way to pull themselves out of the back seat.
- Our teacher would ring a big hand bell to call us in from recess.
- Phone booths (I remember the one in the back of Levy's newsstand on Main Street). Or pay phones, for that matter.
- Praying in school, before saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Christmas Clubs at banks
- Santa Claus at the Emery Hardware Store

The Landmark Society is currently open on Friday mornings, 9AM to 4PM. Special arrangements can be made for individual appointments. Contact us via email at [info@bradfordlandmark.org](mailto:info@bradfordlandmark.org) or by calling 814-362-3906. Please visit our website at [www.bradfordlandmark.org](http://www.bradfordlandmark.org) to learn more about coming events, the Society, the Herbig Bakery, The Crook farm, and interesting articles on local history.

## Meet Kellie Hopkins, the Bradford Landmark Society's new Crook Farm Special Event & Marketing Coordinator!



Kellie Hopkins was recently hired by the Bradford Landmark Society as a Special Event & Marketing Coordinator to promote the Crook Farm and plan engaging events that will attract and inspire visitors. Several people applied, but the Board decided that Kellie Hopkins fit all the requirements and they were unanimous in choosing her as our new coordinator.

But let's hear from Kellie herself:

*"I'm thrilled to be joining Crook Farm as the Event Coordinator. In my new role at Crook Farm, I'm excited to bring fresh ideas, fun new activities, and greater awareness to all that Crook Farm has to offer. My goal is to help connect our community through engaging and meaningful events and experiences at Crook Farm."*

*Originally from Smethport, I now live in Bradford with my husband and our three children. I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Communications and enjoy volunteering with the McKean County Historical Society, where I can explore and share our community's rich history.*

*You can also find me at LUV Toyota, where I take vehicle photos. Outside of work, my husband and I stay busy keeping up with our kids' sports and activities."*



### October 18th Apple Harvest Festival a Wonderful Success!



It was a perfect fall day, with the rain holding off for people to enjoy the festivities. This was only the second time we've hosted this event, and it was a success, with over 450 visitors coming out to the Crook Farm.

Thirty-one vendors offered everything from food trucks and handmade crafts to jams, 3D-printed items, and more. Children especially enjoyed watching Pete Gardner's apple cider pressing, which quickly became a fan favorite. Adults gathered at the Blacksmith Shop, where Bruce Osgood demonstrated traditional blacksmithing techniques.

All historic buildings on the grounds were open to explore, including the Farmhouse, Weaver's Shed, Carpenter Shop, the Bank, and even the Schoolhouse - where visitors could try their hand at calligraphy using traditional ink pens. Live demonstrations also took place in the Candle Shop and the Country Kitchen in the farmhouse.

Music from the Crook Farm Old Time Band filled the air, and many attendees joined in learning some square dancing. Rick Freeman's goats also made an appearance, delighting kids and families alike.

Overall, it was a lively and successful day full of community, crafts, music, and fall traditions- we can't wait for next year's festival and plan to have even more apple-themed activities including an apple pie contest, apple-peeling race, and old-time children's games like an apple toss, a more streamlined festival layout, and additional volunteers to help the day run smoothly.

## A Chronology of the Buildings and Businesses, 2025

For over twenty years, the Bradford Landmark Society has kept track of those businesses that opened over the past year, those that changed their location, and those that sadly closed their doors forever. Some have been in Bradford for years; some were only in business a few months. No matter what the reason, they are all part of Bradford's history. If we may have missed a few here and there in 2025, or got the date wrong, we apologize.

February 28, 2025 – **The Corner Bar** on the corner of Mechanic Street and East Washington Street reopens after being closed for two years.

March 17, 2025 – **High Point Credit Union** at 1035 East Main Street, opens in its newly constructed building.

April 13, 2025 - **First Baptist Church** of Bradford at 71 Congress St. swapped buildings with **Open Arms Community Church** at 1289 E. Main St. Both churches held their first services after the trade on Palm Sunday, April 13.

May 10, 2025 - **Cummins Country Charm** opens a second store at 40 Foster Brook Blvd,

May 10, 2025 - The new **Marilla trails landing**, across from Marilla reservoir, reopened after being rebuilt.

June 13, 2025 - **Viola's Pub** at 12 Brennan St., a popular restaurant for many years, reopens under new management,

June 18, 2025 - **Kinzua Canine**, 30 Airport Road, Unit 3, in Lewis Run, held its official grand opening.

Summer, 2025 - **Close's Lumber Co.** opens its third location, in the former Bisett Building Ctr., 148 Davis St.

October 18, 2025 – **Cummins Country Charm**, 22 Main Street, closes.

October 24, 2025 – **Beall's**, family clothing, home décor and shoes opens at 1001 East Main Street.

November 14, 2025 – **Groundworks Coffee** shop opens in the old Congress Street diner.

November 25, 2025. **One Stop Smoke** shop, 23 Main Street, opens.



### Happy Birthday to Bradford High School that celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025!

Built in 1925, the school held an open house for the public on May 23, giving presentations, a room full of school memorabilia and history and tours of the school. Surprisingly, it hasn't changed that much since I graduated from there. (I couldn't resist getting my photo take with the Owl mascot).

The Landmark loaned several school items for their small museum, which is located inside the high school. It was very well done, and quite educational!

## A Window Display of 'Old Bradford' at the Courthouse

Have you visited the McKean County Courthouse lately? Maybe you were called for jury duty, looking up a deed in the Recorder of Deeds office, or getting a marriage license in the Register of Wills? Whatever the reason, the next time you are there, take a couple of minutes to stop by the Bradford Landmark Society's display in one of the cases in the upper hallway.



Some months ago, Bart Barton, president of the McKean County Historical Society, invited the Landmark to take over one of the eight display cases and fill it with Bradford history. His vision is for each town in the county to “adopt” a case and showcase the stories of its own community or region. I thought it was a wonderful idea, and we filled our case with highlights from Bradford’s early days. To my surprise, it was a lot of fun—and it’s a great way for anyone passing through the hallway to catch a glimpse of the county’s diverse local histories.

Our case is the first one on the left at the top of the stairs, as you head toward the rear of the Courthouse. Stop by and take a look! I’ll be changing it after the New Year, so check it out while this display is still up.

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## Reservoir No. 1 is No More

You may not have ever noticed it, or didn’t know what it was, but if you drive out West Washington Street, say, towards Marilla Reservoir (which is Reservoir No. 3 by the way) or out to Willow Bay, you would have driven right past it. Recently, though, it has been drained, cleared, the land bulldozed, and is completely gone including the little red brick building that sat beside it. It was no longer feasible to maintain it.

Built in 1884 as the city’s first municipal reservoir, it cost \$65,000 to build, and had a capacity of approximately 3 million gallons. Sounds like a lot, but the supply proved insufficient for the growing community. Reservoir No. 2 (Gilbert Run) was constructed in 1887 and Reservoir No. 3 (Marilla) was completed in 1902 and this Reservoir No. 1 was abandoned in 1904. Today, these two reservoirs, and Heffner Reservoir No. 5, completed in 1956, hold over a billion gallons of water.

For a time in the later 1920s city officials looking for site for a community swimming pool considered Reservoir No. 1. Supporters of this location claimed that while it was a little too large, it could be redesigned, but opponents argued that it would take years to install swimming pool equipment, develop Boy and Girl Scout camps, tennis courts, ball fields, and a golf course from what was practically woodland and even if it were developed, it would still be five miles from Main Street. Recreation Park, later renamed Callahan Park, proved a better choice.

## We're asking for your support in the way that works best for you—through a membership, a donation, or simply a heartfelt gift. Every bit truly helps.

Both the Bakery and the Crook Farm, historic sites, are important to the economy and tourism of the area.

The Herbig Bakery at 45 E. Corydon Street acts as a central location for collecting and preserving the local history of the area. With nearly 17,000 photographs, advertising memorabilia, family records, maps, uniforms and clothing, genealogical materials, blueprints, documents, books, etc. we help people know about their roots and assist newcomers to the community in gaining a sense of Bradford's past.

At the Crook Farm, we continue to teach children about the early life of Tuna Valley settlers through the annual School program and provide hands-on opportunities for effective learning. Crooktop, an old Time Music Festival for those fascinated with bluegrass and period music, the Creative Women Workshops, Apple Harvest Festival, Wreath Making, the Patriotic Music Concert, and other various events held at the farm throughout the year are popular venues.

The Landmark relies entirely on individual gifts and community support. We receive no local, county, or federal funding so your donation of \$10, \$20, \$50, or any amount makes a real difference - every dollar helps preserve our buildings, care for our archives, and support community programs.

Please support us, however you choose - membership, gift, or both. Your kindness truly keeps our history alive.

- There are several ways to ensure that the Landmark receives your donation. If you prefer, please go to our webpage at [www.bradfordlandmark.org](http://www.bradfordlandmark.org), and click on "Supporting Us" which will take you to a donation page. You will see a yellow **Donate** button, which will link you to a Paypal page.
- Or, simply fill in the form below and send a check to Bradford Landmark Society, PO Box 1021, Bradford PA 16701.
- Or, stop into the Landmark headquarters in the old Herbig Bakery at 45 E. Corydon Street, with a check, cash or money order.

You will receive a copy of **The Inkwell**, the newsletter of the Society. It can be delivered to you via email or by mail if you prefer; just include your mailing address with your donation.

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☐ Membership    ☐ Gift    ☐ Donation    ☐ I would like to receive the Inkwell via email

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

*The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down, of the big lake they called Gitche Gumee.*

*The lake, it is said, never gives up her dead when the skies of November turn gloomy.*

This November marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the bulk freighter, the **Edmund Fitzgerald**, which sank suddenly in Lake Superior on November 10, 1975, during a severe storm. While many remember the haunting ballad by Gordon Lightfoot, which details the incident, the **Edmund Fitzgerald** deserves a place in history as well.

*The ship was the pride of the American side, coming back from some mill in Wisconsin.*

*As the big freighters go, it was bigger than most, with a crew and good captain well-seasoned.*

When launched in 1958, the **Edmund Fitzgerald** was the largest ship on North America's Great Lakes and remains the largest to have sunk there. The ship was known as the "queen of the lakes" and was considered state-of-the-art when it was built. For 17 years, Edmund Fitzgerald carried taconite (a variety of iron ore) from mines along the Minnesota Iron Range near Duluth, Minnesota, to iron works in Detroit, Michigan; Toledo, Ohio and other Great Lakes ports. The ship set seasonal haul records six times, often breaking her own record. The vessel's record load for a single trip was 27,402 long tons (30,690 short tons) in 1969.

*With a load of iron ore, twenty-six thousand tons more than the Edmund Fitzgerald weighed empty,*

*That good ship and true was a bone to be chewed when the gales of November came early.*

The ship left Superior, Wisconsin, headed for Cleveland, on November 9 at 2:30PM, loaded with 26,116 long tons of taconite pellets, made of processed iron ore, heated and rolled into marble-size balls. Aware of a building November storm entering the Great Lakes from the great plains, Captain Ernest McSorley took the northerly course across Lake Superior, where the ship would be protected by highlands on the Canadian shore.

Weather conditions continued to deteriorate. Gale warnings had been issued at 7 pm on November 9, upgraded to storm warnings early in the morning of November 10. Conditions were bad, with winds gusting to 50 knots and seas 12 to 16 feet, but Captain McSorley had often piloted his vessel in similar conditions.

*The wind in the wires made a tattle-tale sound and a wave broke over the railing*

*And every man knew, as the captain did too 'twas the witch of November come stealing.*

Meanwhile, another freighter, the **Anderson**, had reached safe harbor at Whitefish Point. The winds at 5:20PM were from the NW, at a steady 58 knots with gusts to 70 knots, and seas of 18 to 25 feet. They had kept track of the **Edmund Fitzgerald** on radar, and managed to contact the ship at 7:10PM. "How are you doing?" they radioed, and the **Edmund Fitzgerald** answered "we are holding our own." That was the last time the **Anderson** was able to establish contact. They called again at 7:22PM, but there was no answer.

*When supertime came, the old cook came on deck saying "Fellas, it's too rough to feed ya."*

*At seven p.m., the main hatchway caved in, he said "Fellas, it's been good to know ya."*

*The captain wired in he had water comin' in and the good ship and crew was in peril*

*And later that night when his lights went outta sight, came the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.*

A worried Captain Cooper of the **Anderson** called into the Coast Guard. "At this time, I became very concerned about the **Fitzgerald** – couldn't see his lights when we should have...I was sure something had happened to the **Fitzgerald**."

The Coast Guard, involved with the rescue of another ship in distress, asked him to go back out and search the area, but Captain Cooper was very reluctant, due to the weather. He said “Well, I’ll go back and take a look, but God, I’m afraid I’m going to take a hell of a beating out there... I’ll turn around and give ‘er a whirl, but God, I don’t know. I’ll give it a try.”

The **Anderson** became the primary search ship that night. With the ship pounding and rolling badly, the crew of the **Anderson** discovered the **Fitzgerald’s** two lifeboats and other debris but no sign of survivors. The **Edmund Fitzgerald** was lost with her entire crew of 29 men. The bodies were never recovered.

*Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?  
The searchers all say they'd have made Whitefish Bay if they'd put 15 more miles behind her  
They might have split up or they might have capsized, they may have broke deep and took water.  
And all that remains is the faces and the names of the wives and the sons and the daughters.*

Over the next few days, the Coast Guard conducted an extensive search with planes and two Coast Guard cutters. Eventually, two large pieces of wreckage were found, 17 miles NW of Whitefish Point. The following May, 1976, a controlled underwater recovery vehicle did another search and the ship was located. The words “**Edmund Fitzgerald**” were clearly seen on the stern, upside down, 535 feet below the surface of the lake.

*In a rustic old hall in Detroit, they prayed in the Maritime Sailors' Cathedral  
The church bell chimed, it rang twenty-nine times for each man on the **Edmund Fitzgerald**.*

The song by Gordon Lightfoot, a popular folk singer of the 1970s, made the wreck of the **Edmund Fitzgerald** a legend. Lightfoot was inspired to write “*Edmund Fitzgerald*” after reading an article about the disaster in the Nov. 24, 1975, edition of Newsweek magazine. Later, he read about the Mariners’ Church in Detroit, ringing the church bell twenty-nine times and felt compelled to write a song about the disaster. The song was released in August 1976 and was at the top of the charts by autumn.

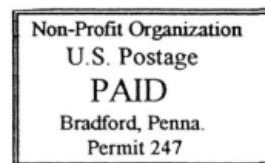
This fall the 50th anniversary of the **Edmund Fitzgerald** sinking was commemorated with various events around the Great Lakes, including memorial services at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, the Split Rock Lighthouse, and the Mariners' Church of Detroit and the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo.

Split Rock Lighthouse saw 2000 people attend a memorial service as they read the names of the 29 men.

Gordon Lightfoot died in 2023 at the age of 84. That November, when the Mariner’s Church in Detroit rang the church bell twenty-nine times for the men of the **Edmund Fitzgerald**, it ran one more time - for Gordon Lightfoot.



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



Return Service Requested



## **Everyone is Invited !**

**To the annual Bradford Landmark  
Society Christmas party/open house at  
the Herbig Bakery, 45 E. Corydon Street**

**Friday, Dec. 19, 1PM to 4PM**

**Come have some cookies, punch, and  
holiday goodies. Take a tour, meet the  
staff, and see what history is all about !**