



*A Newsletter for Friends of the Bradford Landmark*

# The Inkwell

September 2020

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

[www.bradfordlandmark.org](http://www.bradfordlandmark.org)

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## **Editor of the Inkwell**

Sally Costik

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.

## **Inside this issue:**

“Coffee with the Curator”  
Video Series  
The Original Postal  
System  
Civil War Statue at Oak  
Hill Damaged by Storm  
Recent Acquisitions

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](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 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.

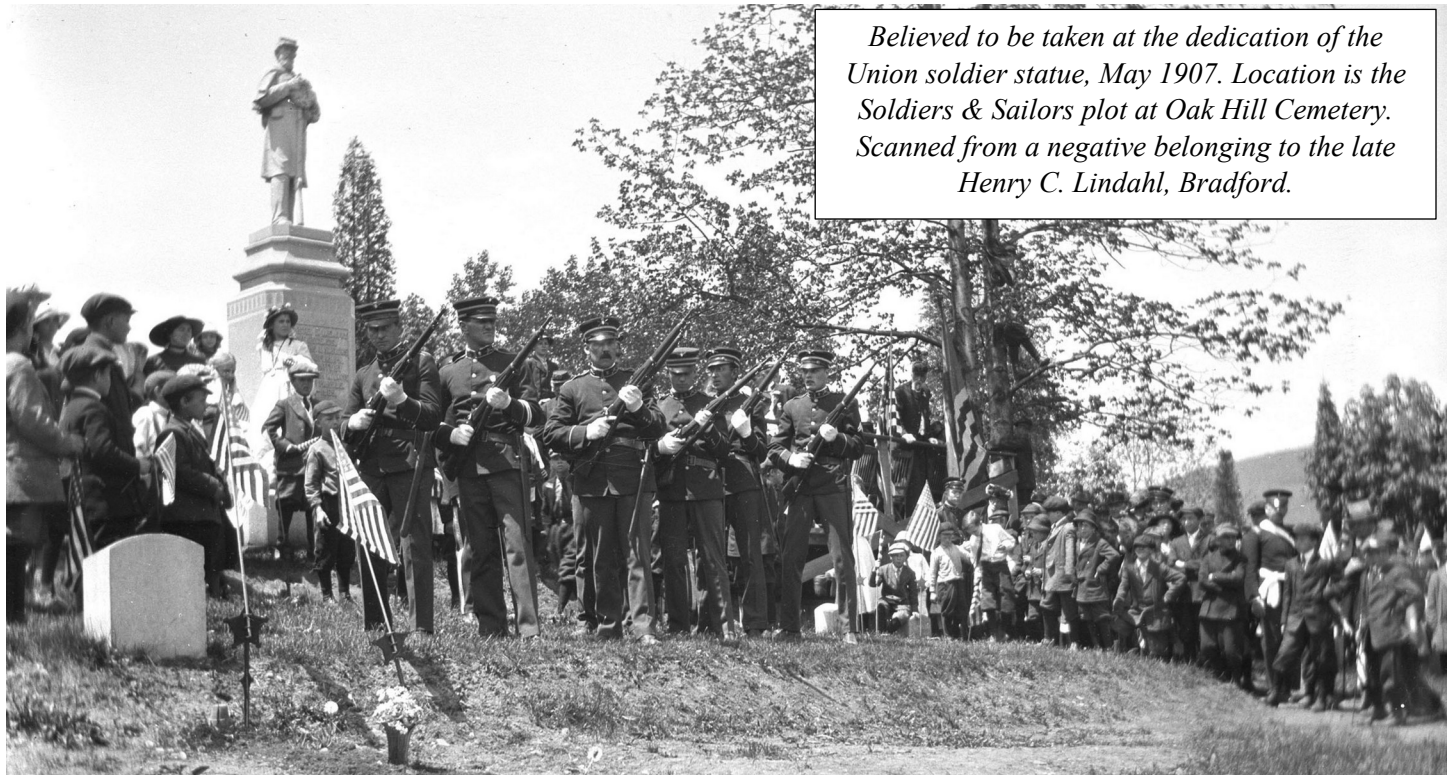
The office was known as the Tununguant with the manner of spelling as given. There has been great diversity of opinion as to the orthography of the Indian name. When the Boundary Commissioners ran the line between Pennsylvania and New York in 1786, they wrestled with the name and finally marshalled the letters thus: Cheneonguant. 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 Pennhills 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.

### **Bradford Landmark Society**

45 East Corydon Street  
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