



The Inkwell

The newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

Phone 814-362-3906 or email us at info@bradfordlandmark.org

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Directors of the Bradford Landmark Society

Harrijane Hannon, Pres.

Jay Bradish

Greg Ulyan

Pam Fredeen

Glen Washington

Elizabeth Sefton

Susan Oliphant

Charles Pagano

Stephanie Packard

Robert Esch

Curator at Herbig Bakery

Sally Ryan Costik

Researcher
Molly Lindahl

Researcher
Larry Richmond

Volunteers at the Bakery

Mary Ryan

Gordon Ernest

Bill Knight


Hours of Operation:

Herbig Bakery, 11AM - 2PM,
Monday Wednesday, Friday

Historic Crook Farm By Appointment

Summertime. It had been predicted that this would be "the hottest summer on record" but so far, its been rather lovely. Oh, a few hot days, but we should appreciate the warmth while we can. Go swimming, play tennis, garden, or play ball - or just sit in the wonderful July sunshine. And don't forget the Crook Farm Fair in August!

The Herbig Bakery was recently given a tremendously important historic gift, courtesy of Ed Smith, who worked for the architectural firm of Abbey, Coatsworth, and Hemmingway before his retirement. We are talking about blueprints - hundreds of them - from Bradford and the surrounding areas. Just seeing all the work that went into these architectural works of art is amazing, and we thank Ed Smith for thinking of us when he was looking for a new home for his collection. These blueprints date back to the 1950s - and depict buildings, houses, stores, and factories from Coudersport to Buffalo, and of course, Bradford. Mike Fuoco, our expert on such things, has been transporting all these blueprints to the bakery - and then sorting all of them, depending on their geographical location. We've already seen some great original blueprints of Swarts Hall - except that it was called the Academic Building back then - the Zippo office on Barbour street, additions to churches such as the Presbyterian, St. Bernard's, Evans Memorial, and others; schools, businesses, and private homes. We even found copies of the original 1878 E.Curtis architectural drawings of the 1898 City Hall - the one that was so recently restored.

Where do we put them all, you ask? Well, Mr. Smith was kind enough to give us all the map cases as well. Because we can't possibly store all of them, we will be offering the "foreign" blueprints - those that represent areas not close to Bradford, such as Mansfield, Smethport, Buffalo, Warren, and Olean to name a few - to the appropriate organizations. That will still leave us with dozens and dozens of "one of a kind" drawings; a truly wonderful and historic gift to the Landmark Society. Thank you again, Ed Smith! 



Hey Kids, Let's Go Camping



The Bradford Landmark Society
is sponsoring an overnight

“Crook Farm Kid's Camp”

on the grounds of the historic Crook Farm
on Seaward Avenue.

August 4th, starting at 4PM.

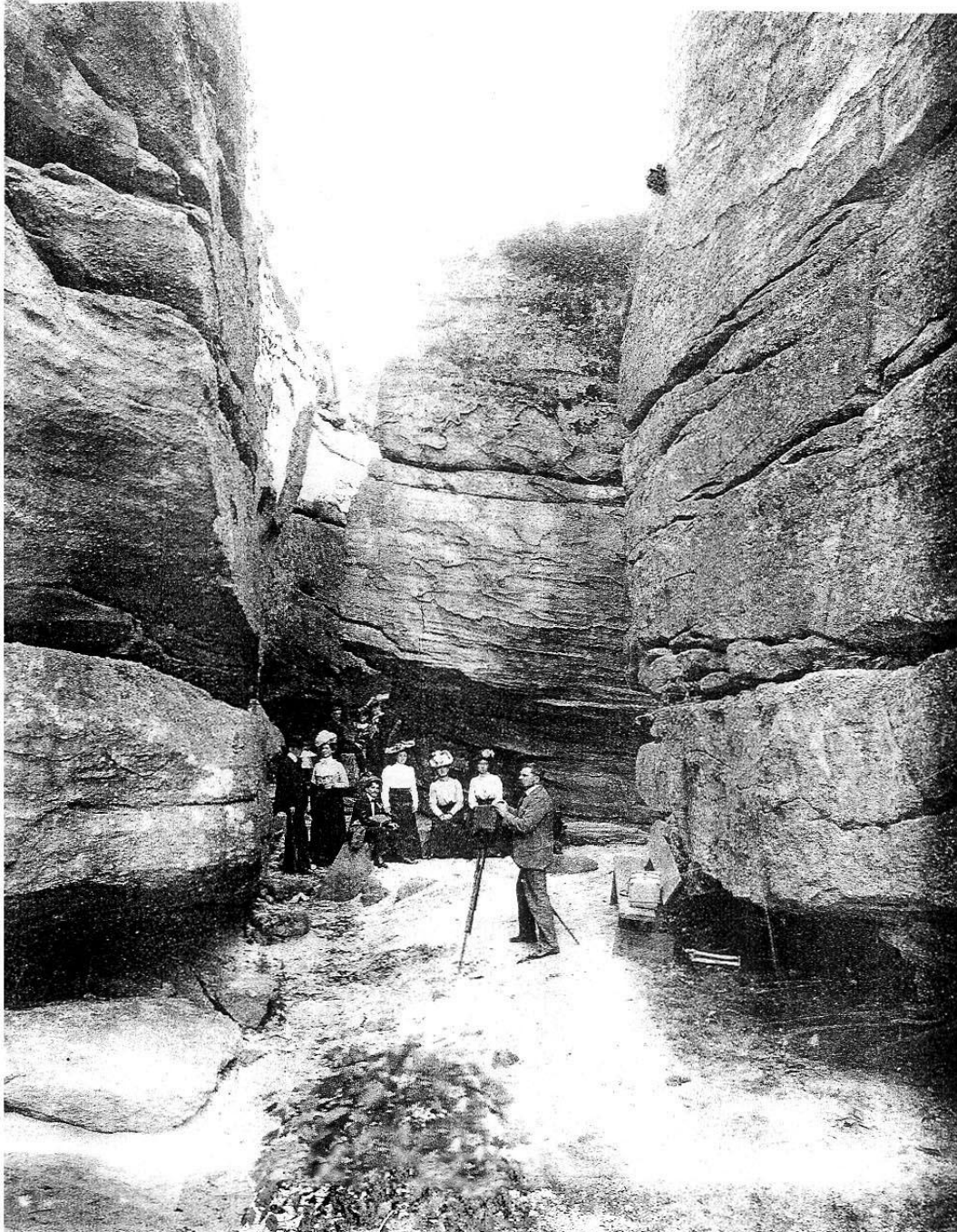


All children, ages 4 to 10, and their parents are invited to attend. A nature scavenger hunt, games, sing-a-long, and a campfire will be part of the fun! Dinner, campfire snacks, and breakfast will be served. Modern restrooms will be available inside the Bank Building at the farm.

Bring your own tent, small RV, family van, or camp inside on the floor of the Bank Building. Don't forget to bring a sleeping bag, flashlight, pillow, and tent if you have one.

Cost is \$10 per adult, and \$5 per child. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling The Bradford Landmark Society at 362-3906 or at info@bradfordlandmark.org.

Rock City Park



Looking for something to do this summer? Rock City is a great way to spend an afternoon among giant rocks. These visitors from the 1890s thought so, too!

The Bradford Landmark Society

proudly announces the first-ever reprint of

The Dresser Mansion



For Our Friends

The Dresser Mansion, For Our Friends, was a book privately published by Solomon R. Dresser in 1903 on the occasion of the completion of his mansion. Over 300 copies of this book, a celebration of the architectural wonder that was the Dresser mansion, were personally autographed by Solomon R. Dresser, and given as Christmas presents in 1903. The Landmark is fortunate to have three copies of this book in our collection.

The original book contained 26 full size photographs of the interior of the mansion, along with detailed descriptions. In addition, a drawing of the outlay of each of the four floors was included. For the reprint, we have scanned Dresser's book as it appears in its original form, and have also added information on Solomon R. Dresser, his family, and the history of the mansion, along with details and photographs of the fire.

As you may remember, the mansion burned to the ground in 1986, and one of Bradford's greatest architectural accomplishments was lost forever. This book, which has never before been reprinted, will be a great addition to your collection of historical books on the city of Bradford.

Cost is \$20.00, and we are taking advance reservations of this book, which will be available in August, 2007. Please call the Landmark at 362-3906 to reserve your copy of this truly special book.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Number of Copies _____

Several "sneak" previews of some of the pages of the book are shown below (these pages have been reduced to fit inside this newsletter. The full size of the book is 8.5" x 11").



HERE stands on a commanding elevation overlooking the broad Pennsylvania valley, in which Bradford is located, a superb residence. It is gray white and from afar it seems like one of the magnificent palaces of ancient Spain. Beautiful green hills form its background. The view from its spacious portico is a panorama of vast valley and looming mountains.

The favorite name of this famous home is Belleview Terrace—a name in truth suggestive of its charm of location and beauty of surroundings.

From inception to completion nothing was left undone to make this mansion one of the finest in the land. Its outline in general was suggested by the renowned Michigan Building at the Pan-American Exposition, a building which attracted thousands of admirers of its architecture. The designer of the one was the designer of the other, Mr. Louis Kamper of Detroit, Mich. He furnished all detail plans and drawings. The builder was Mr. E. N. Unruh of Bradford. He had charge of the work during the entire construction, from beginning to end.

The exterior of the house is Colonial and is built of gray-white brick with trimmings of gray canyon sandstone. The terraces and porches are of stone with floorings of Terrazzo in marble.



Bradford Legends – Myth or Truth?

There is currently a show on the Discovery Channel called “Myth Busters”. On it, two men prove, or disprove, commonly held beliefs that may or may not be true. Bradford is a lot like that show. We have a variety of myths that have sprung up over the years, and just like those men on TV, The Bradford Landmark Society is determined to “bust” them or prove them true.

Myth 1. The Wizard of Oz Myth.

Our first myth is one that refuses to die. The way the story goes, L. Frank Baum, the famous author of the book “Wizard of Oz” founded the Bradford Era. Or he was a reporter on the Era. Or he wrote the Wizard of Oz based on true life oil producers that he knew in Bradford. Truth? The Landmark has done extensive research and there is no record that Baum himself ever even stepped foot in Bradford, and we know for a fact that he *did not* found the Bradford Era in 1878.

Myth 2. Henry Ford secretly visited the Holley Brothers in Bradford to negotiate the purchase of their carburetor.

Holley Carburetors, invented by Bradfordians Earl and George Holley in 1903, were used extensively by Henry Ford during the early days of Model T automobile production. The Holley brothers moved to Detroit in 1907 and created the Holley Brothers Company which manufactured carburetors for Ford. There is no proof that Ford himself ever visited Bradford.

Myth 3. Solomon Dresser intended to make his mansion on Jackson Avenue the Governor’s mansion after he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania.

Truth? Solomon Dresser never ran for Governor, and actually died just 7 years after the mansion was completed in 1904. He was a United States Representative (1903-1906) but suffered a severe stroke in late 1903, and returned to Bradford, an invalid, for the rest of his life. Dresser died on January 21, 1911.

Myth 4. Babe Ruth once visited Bradford.

Truth? No. But he did visit Olean once, in the 1920s.

Myth 5. Al Capone often visited Bradford and was shot here.

This myth pops up now and then. There is no evidence that Capone ever visited Bradford, although the city was definitely a part of the ‘Prohibition’ gangster era. At the Landmark, we believe that most people confuse Al Capone with Al Ritchie, who was indeed gunned down in a gangster slaying in 1931. A woman once told me that she met Al Capone when she was a girl in 1944, on River Street, and that he handed her a gold dollar. Truth? Well, from 1934 to November 1939, Capone was in Alcatraz; released in late 1939 with a STD, he spent the last few years of his life in exclusion in his home in Miami, dying in 1947. Unlikely that he came to Bradford during those last few years. In addition, Capone was a “Chicago style” gangster; Bradford’s access to illegal liquor was more through Buffalo connections.

Myth 6. The Tuna Creek once flowed where Main Street is today, but was diverted so that the town could be built there.

We see this myth every now and then, and geologically speaking, it's possible, but that would have happened hundreds of thousands of years before there was even a Main Street or a Bradford. Minor changes in the path of the creek may have taken place (for example, there was a mill pond at the head of Main Street in the 1860s) but no, it's a myth.

Myth 7. City officials wanted to extend Main Street to Bushnell Street, but Grace Emery wouldn't permit it.

Actually, true. When Lewis Emery died in 1927, Grace Emery, his daughter, decided to erect a hotel in his honor, and tore down the old St. James Hotel at the head of Main Street. In June of 1928, before the new Emery Hotel could be built, she was asked by the Mayor and City Council if she would sell them the land instead, so that Main Street could be lengthened. She refused. The Emery hotel was built and opened the next year, in 1929.

Myth 8. The huge front portico of the Dresser mansion on Jackson Avenue was removed in the 1930s to avoid paying a mandated "porch tax".

There has never been a "porch tax" in Pennsylvania, and even if there had been one in the 1930s, the Dresser family was easily wealthy enough to pay it. Dorette Dresser, granddaughter of Solomon Dresser, once confirmed that the large portico was removed because it was sinking and had become structurally unsafe.

Myth 9. Andrew Carnegie not only paid to have the library on the corner of Congress and East Corydon Street erected, the Carnegie Foundation continued to support it financially for years.

No, no, no. Actually, Carnegie gave only \$25,000 to the Library as an incentive to build it in 1901, and an additional \$5000 gift on the day it officially opened. Carnegie believed that people, governments, and organizations should stand on their own two feet; he used his vast financial wealth to provide *opportunities* (especially libraries) but felt that the future operations and maintenance should be the responsibility of the recipient. The Carnegie Foundation never gave any money to the Bradford Public Library.

Myth 10. Hollywood Helen is an Undercover Drug Agent.

Go ahead, laugh. I actually heard this myth one day at my daughter Leah's soccer game two years ago. A man who is a guard at the prison was talking to another spectator, and remarked that he had always heard that whenever an announcement of Hollywood Helen's trip to Las Vegas appears in the classified section of the Bradford Era, that the announcement was really a secret signal to the undercover drug agents in the Bradford Era that a drug bust was about to happen. So I've been watching and observing and whenever Helen announces that she is going to Las Vegas, I read the paper carefully over the next few weeks to see if a drug bust really does take place shortly thereafter, and well.....I'll let you investigate this myth or truth yourself!

You decide....Fact or Fiction?

“It Was a Very Good Year”

Remember that old Frank Sinatra song? It was always one of my favorites. In this summer edition of *The Inkwell* we thought that we would test our readers on how well they remember in what “*very good year*” certain things happened in Bradford. We chose only items that happened within the last seventy five years, so if you have been paying attention to history as it happened, or heard your parents or grandparents talking about certain events, you should have no trouble placing things correctly in the right year. We’ll give the answers further on in this newsletter. Good Luck!

- 1) Parking Meters start appearing on our city streets.
 - a. 1933
 - b. 1965
 - c. 1945
- 2) Two former G.I.s, John Miller and Harold Shadd open "The Musical Bar" at 127 Main Street; on the site of the former Old Spain restaurant.
 - a. 1959
 - b. 1946
 - c. 1950
- 3) An “after hours” deposit box for paying city utilities is installed to the left of the front door at City Hall.
 - a. 1950
 - b. 1965
 - c. 1945
- 4) Regulations regarding the trapping of skunks in the city are announced; a two dollar bounty will be paid by the Health Department. Only box traps can be used.
 - a. 1935
 - b. 1989
 - c. 1966
- 5) Reckless and fast horseback riding on Harding Avenue is deemed dangerous to children, and is cited by the City Council.
 - a. 1942
 - b. 1952
 - c. 1962
- 6) Kiwanis and Key Clubs to start construction of an ice skating rink at Hanley Park .
 - a. 1935
 - b. 1942
 - c. 1948
- 7) Bradford joins other areas across the nation in reporting the appearance of "flying saucers" when one of the mysterious discs is reported seen over East Bradford.
 - a. 1937
 - b. 1947
 - c. 1957
- 8) YWCA holds ground breaking ceremonies at 24 W. Corydon Street.
 - a. 1938
 - b. 1948
 - c. 1958

- 9) The Fraternal Order of Eagles will hold a grand opening of their new home at 460 South Avenue (currently Louie's Bar).
- a. 1934
 - b. 1949
 - c. 1972
- 10) Ground is broken for new St. Francis Church in East Bradford.
- a. 1950
 - b. 1955
 - c. 1960
- 11) Old drinking fountains at Holley Hotel, Central Fire station and Public Square replaced with new ones
- a. 1936
 - b. 1949
 - c. 1952
- 12) Old fire bell, which has hung in the city building tower since 1889, sounds its last alarm as workmen begin razing the tower.
- a. 1941
 - b. 1946
 - c. 1952
- 13) Pincus Cohen is named general manager of the Bradford Community Baseball Club.
- a. 1933
 - b. 1943
 - c. 1953
- 14) Last class of nurses graduates from Bradford Nursing school.
- a. 1948
 - b. 1956
 - c. 1962
- 15) Bradford's new swimming pool is scheduled to open early next month at Recreation Park.
- a. 1932
 - b. 1939
 - c. 1940
- 16) Veterans of Foreign Wars move to their new home at 11 Chestnut street from 80 Main street.
- a. 1936
 - b. 1946
 - c. 1956
- 17) Officials announce that Tops Friendly Market will move into the former Family Bargain Center (FBC) on Main Street by summer.
- a. 1968
 - b. 1974
 - c. 1986
- 18) Formal opening of the recently completed St. Bernard auditorium
- a. 1933
 - b. 1939
 - c. 1949.

Happy Birthday Koch-Chatley-Gaeto-Galati Funeral Home

120 Years Old!!!

For any business to remain in existence for even twenty years can sometimes be a real struggle. But Bradford is lucky to have a business that was founded right here in the city – 120 years ago. It has changed its name from time to time, but the very nature of its business has never changed – and even improved!

It is said that Death and Taxes are inevitable. Well, add undertakers to that statement! One of our first early settlers – Philip Webster, the stepson of Colonel Levitt Little – grew up to be one of the town's first undertakers. Another one of the earliest was Otto Koch's Undertaking Establishment. Koch was originally from Chautauqua County, and attended business college in Buffalo before coming to Bradford in the early 1880s.

Koch founded his undertaking parlor on June 12, 1887, and in 1909, Otto's brother, Louis E. Koch, joined the business and the name was changed to Koch Brothers. In 1906, at the age of 39, Otto Koch took over as president of Kendall Refining and in 1929 sold his interests in the mortuary to his brother, Louis; later the name was changed to the Louis E Koch Memorial Chapel.

Otho B. Chatley became associated with the business in 1919 and, in 1936 purchased an interest in the business. In 1946, when he was named Secretary, the name was changed to The Koch Chatley Memorial Chapel, Inc.

The business was located for many years at 31-33 South Avenue, in buildings built by Mr. Koch. In 1963, Mr. Chatley purchased the Lewis E. Mallory home at 20 School Street, and in February, 1964, Koch Chatley Memorial Chapel moved to that location. Chatley died in 1983, at the age of 84.

In 1985, Koch Chatley Memorial Chapel joined the Galati Funeral Home at their Kennedy Street location. On February 1, 1991, Vince and Rebecca Gaeto purchased the Koch Chatley Memorial Chapel, merged it with the Galati Funeral Home, and changed the name to Koch Chatley Gaeto Memorial Chapel, Inc.

In the summer of 2004 the name was changed to Koch Chatley Gaeto Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc. It is the oldest funeral home in this community, having just completed 120 years of continuous service to the people of Bradford and its surrounding community.

The Galati Funeral Home, built in 1967, was the first funeral home in Bradford to be designed and built specifically as a mortuary. The exterior of the building is of Williamsburg Colonial design, constructed of red brick and white siding, with a two story circular portico covering the entrance.

It was built by Nick Galati, a long time Bradford resident. Born in Italy in 1927, Galati served in the United States Medical Corp. during World War II, and first practiced mortuary science in Harrisburg, PA. Well known in Bradford, Galati retired to Hawaii, where he died in 1993 of Lou Gehrig's disease. He was 65.

It was a very good year, wasn't it? Answers to our quiz....

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1) c. 1945 | 6) c. 1948 | 11) c. 1952 | 16) a. 1936 |
| 2) b. 1946 | 7) b. 1947 | 12) c. 1952 | 17) b. 1974 |
| 3) b. 1965 | 8) b. 1948 | 13) c. 1953 | 18) a. 1933 |
| 4) c. 1966 | 9) b. 1949 | 14) b. 1956 | |
| 5) b. 1952 | 10) a. 1950 | 15) b. 1939 | |

Recent Accessions to the Bradford Landmark Society

We thank the following donors who thoughtfully brought in these items and signed them over to the Landmark. We encourage everyone who owns a part of Bradford history to remember us in their wills, when cleaning out your garages, attics or basements, or when you find a particular piece of history inside your photo album or family papers. Our collection was built on the kind donations of people like you, and we appreciate every single item that we have been given.

January 31, 2007. Donor - Minnie M. Stover of Bradford.

- One linen map of East Main Street featuring the Clark farm area, dated 12/19/1920. Measures 30" x 36".

January 31, 2007. Donor - Peter Digel of Smethport, PA.

- Receipts from various Bradford businesses.

June 4, 2007. Donor - Theda Young (brought in by Janice M. Hutchins Smith).

- Photograph, Kreinson's first store, interior photograph showing saleswomen; (16 women seated in store; seven identified).

June 13, 2007. Donor - Genny Hartman.

- One Bissell manual carpet sweeper.
- One set curtain stretchers.

June 22, 2007. Donor - Fred Proper.

- Convention pins of Virgil Poling; last Union president at Kendall Refinery before breaking of Union in 1954.
 - Official Score Card, 1949 Bradford Phillies baseball team.
- Newspaper clippings and tear sheets from City Limits magazines concerning the Phillies baseball team.
 - Photograph, 1949, Bradford Phillies baseball team, all identified.
 - Clippings from the Bradford High School Courant magazine.
 - Two pair leather baby shoes, and one pair pink felt baby slippers.
 - Pink brush and comb set.
- Dad's Day Program, St. Bonaventure vs. Louisville University Cardinals, Oct. 27, 1951
 - Barker yearbooks, 1948, 1949, 1950.
 - Student handbook, 1948-1949, Bradford High School.
 - Dance Program, Class of 1950 presents Woodland Fantasies with Shep Fields.
- Two playbills, Tom Drake in "Heaven Can Wait" and Susan Peters in "The Glass Menagerie".
 - Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus magazine, 1949.
- Union leader Virgil Poling's scrapbook with photographs, of the Kendall strike of 1954.



Write it down, the Crook Farm is coming Aug. 25 & 26th.

