



BRADFORD COUNTY'S NEW COURT HOUSE.
Lehman & Schmitt, Architects, Cleveland, Ohio.

The Unusual Story of the Courthouse Square
Celebrating the Bicentennial Year of Bradford County, Pennsylvania

Bradford County Historical Society
ANNUAL MEETING

September 23, 2012



Program

- ☞ Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.....*Henry G. Farley, President*
- ☞ Meeting
 - Approval of Minutes of the 2011 Meeting*
 - Reports.....Matthew Carl, Manager/ Curator*
 - Appointment of the Editor of the Settler*
 - Election of Trustees.....Margaret Walsh*
- ☞ Awards
 - Clement F. Heverly Outstanding Service Award*
 - Leo E. Wilt Historian of the Year Award*
- ☞ The Unusual Story of the Courthouse Square.....*Matthew Carl*
- ☞ Refreshments

Bradford County Historical Society

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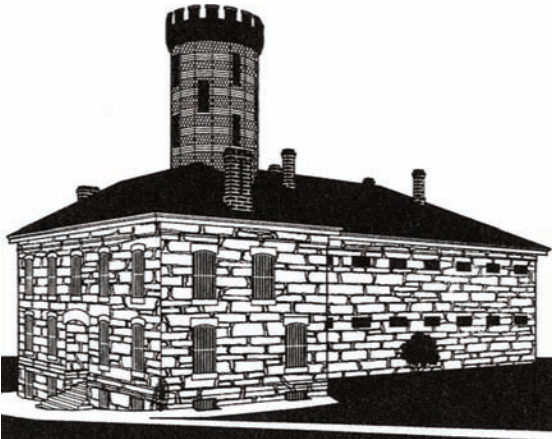
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Matthew T. Carl	Manager/Curator
Denise Golden	Library Clerk



Report of the President

I can say that this has certainly been a historic year and a great year to have the honor to serve as president of the Bradford County Historical Society. As far back as when we were housed at 21 Main Street in Towanda I reminded the board that this milestone anniversary was coming and that we had to plan to make it memorable. We did plan, and we have given, the residents of Bradford County many options to celebrate this year.

Matt Carl, our curator/manager has done an exceptional job coordinating our bicentennial events starting with the layout and production of our book *Bradford County Bicentennial - A Photographic History* followed by the official observance of the day the county was created on March 24; "Passport Through Time," the county wide museum coordinated effort to share our history with residents of the area; and "Old People's Day," celebrated June 23rd at the Court House.

We still have two events left in this year-long observance, those being October 13, when we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first election in Bradford County on the actual date that it happened. On this day we will begin with a program at the Keystone Theatre which will be followed by refreshments at the museum. The finale of the year will be the Bicentennial Ball which will be held on December 8 at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Parish Center at Saint Agnes School in Towanda. Lauren Hotaling and Mary Neiley have teamed up to coordinate this event which has been very well received thus far.

Our annual appeal letter has been sent to our membership. As you know we lost our Pennsylvania State funding three years ago. The loss of \$10,000 from our operations budget had to be made up and your generous donations to the appeal have made it possible for us to continue our services without any changes or down time. The goal this year is for \$15,000 since the cost of doing business has increased for us just as it has for everyone else.

This year marked volume 50 for our quarterly publication, *The Settler*. The focus this year has been the bicentennial along with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, 1861-1865. Several of our readers have volunteered to submit stories for future editions which always interests us as we gain someone else's perspective along with their historical knowledge.

The board decided several years ago to forgo the annual dinner meeting and move the event to a Sunday afternoon at the end of September. We feel this has been a successful move and will continue to hold the meeting in this venue.

Our volunteers and staff have gone above and beyond once again this year and we are grateful for their support in keeping the day to day events going and the research letters answered.

Thank you for your membership and support of the society. We have a great history in Bradford County that can continue to be shared due to this wonderful museum and research library.

Henry G. Farley

President

Manager/Curator's Report

Matthew Carl

A year ago, as we began to make the final plans for the activities of the bicentennial year, it was clear that 2012 would be one of the busiest years on record. Each year tends to be increasingly active at the Bradford County Historical Society but when you add an entirely separate list of bicentennial events on top, it makes for an active schedule.

It was decided a year ago that during the bicentennial year, we would forgo several activities including extra curator projects, new exhibits, and participation in events that did not pertain to the bicentennial. It was not always possible to do this, but for the most part it has been the only way I have been able to do everything that was required this year.

Bicentennial

We began discussing plans for the bicentennial year with the county commissioners last summer and a schedule of activities was developed.

The first activity of the year was the Bicentennial Observance, held on March 24. In the morning, an open house was held at the courthouse for two hours. During the open house, a series of approximately 50 easels were spread throughout three floors of the rotunda. Each easel featured two historic photographs from each township. Photos of past courthouses, the jail, the almshouse, and the historical society were also displayed on easels. I spent four months planning, organizing and assembling this exhibit and the county paid for the exhibit using Bradford County Room Tax funds. Packing, moving and setting up the exhibit throughout the courthouse was a massive undertaking but it went very smoothly with the help of volunteers.

Residents had the opportunity to tour the exhibit, see the courtrooms, meet county officials, and enjoy anniversary cake and punch provided by the county. The commissioners made a proclamation to officially recognize the beginning of the bicentennial year. The county also created special commemorative shirts. In the afternoon we hosted a wonderful program at the historical society during which the speeches from the centennial celebration (100 years ago) were read. This event was standing room only.

Meetings of the 10 museums of Bradford County were held in the BCHS research library. During these meetings, we planned how the museums would be involved in the bicentennial events, with input from each organization. Working together, the museums decided to host an event entitled, "Passport Through Time," that would encourage people to visit all 10 museums during a three-day period, May 18-20. Participants collected stickers from each museum. All 10 stickers entitled them to submit their completed brochure into a drawing for a collection of local history items contributed by each museum. The event was well received and an adult and a child winner were chosen.

Meetings began in March with a separate group that worked on planning a parade for Bradford County Old People's Day, the third bicentennial event, held on June 23. The committee was headed by Pat Hoover with assistance from Jay Cory. As the event approached, meetings of this committee were held weekly. While the parade committee was meeting, I also communicated with the commissioner's office to iron out the details of the day. The county allowed us to use the courthouse that day and all 10 museums set up a display about their organization and area in the rotunda. I presented a program in the courtroom. Kurt Lafy organized a Civil War encampment as well as cannon fire and gun fire during the event. There is not enough that can be said about everything that Jay Cory did that day. He organized a car show, food vendors, crafters, children's activities and even made an appearance as Ben Franklin. The oldest man and woman in attendance were honored with an etched crystal award. Photographs were taken of groups of people who were over 70 and also of veterans. We endeavored to recreate an event that the historical society held 100 years ago, and I think we succeeded.

There are two events remaining this year including a theatre event on October 13 followed by refreshments and a special exhibit at the historical society. On December 8, the Bradford County Bicentennial Ball will be held. Tickets for both events are now on sale. It has certainly been an exciting year in Bradford County.

Operations

A number of activities took place around the building this year. The first and most important was the installation of foam insulation in the ceiling of the research library. The project was done from February 8 to 15, including removal of the ceiling, spray foam installation, the old skylight closed in and insulated, the walls washed down, the floors cleaned, and then the process of moving all the furniture back into the research library. We took the opportunity to reorganize the research library to meet our needs better and to add another filing cabinet for our expanding family files. A tremendous difference is felt with the new insulation and the hours of the research library were changed back to year-round once again.

The lease ran out on our old copier and this gave us the opportunity to move to a new copier. We have taken advantage of the features offered by this new piece of equipment and have networked the public-use research library computers to the copier so that prints of newspapers or other material can be printed on the copier, saving us money on ink for the inkjet computer printer.

External hard drives were added to our computers this year so that we can regularly backup our data.

Lois Crandall delivered the new street signs to the borough that we had previously purchased with a Room Tax grant. The borough installed them on the corner of Main and Pine Streets.

Volunteers continue to take care of exterior cleaning, mowing, flower planting, etc. and this makes the museum building look attractive and inviting.

Programming and Community Outreach

We have had a variety of programming this year in addition to the bicentennial events.

Last fall we hosted a special poetry reading event entitled Common Ground presented by Craig Czury.

We hosted two Gettysburg bus trips over the past year, one on October 8, 2011 and one on July 14, 2012. We had full buses each time. Kurt Lafy was our tour guide for each trip as we learned about the 141st PA Volunteer Infantry's involvement in the Battle of Gettysburg. We thank Kurt for volunteering his time and knowledge for these events.

Our Friday Night at the Museum programming series continued this year, sponsored by the United Way and Citizens & Northern Bank. The programs featured this season have been: Broadway Favorites Acapella; Personal Stories of the Civil War; A Tour of American Music; The Towanda of 1972; Minnequa: A Spring, A Hotel, A County; and Towanda's Silk Industry. We thank all of the speakers and those who have made special contributions, specifically David Lenington. All of this year's programs have had capacity attendance numbering between 90 and 100 people at each event.

I have also spoken in the community this year at the Towanda Seniors Club, Bradford County COG Annual Meeting, and Union Lodge #108 Towanda. The historical society was involved in restoration of the Almshouse Cemetery in West Burlington and I spoke at the dedication of the cemetery.

Outreach through Print and Electronic Media

It was a banner year for historical society promotion. The Bradford County Historical Society was featured in the newspapers over 238 times over the past year, including press releases, ads, and articles written about us by outside sources. We were featured prominently in the Northeast Driller newspaper last fall about the work our staff and volunteers have done for natural gas land men and researchers.

Henry Farley ran a series of articles in commemoration of the bicentennial.

After last year's devastating flood, we received several boxes of wet or damp historical records from the basement of one of the county's storage facilities. The Rocket Courier did an article about the measures we were taking to dry and preserve the documents. This was followed by a visit from TV news channel WNEP who visited the historical society and did a story on the records.

I designed a Bicentennial rack card which we printed and distributed this year along with bicentennial banners.

Commissioner Mark Smith and I did a tour of the courthouse last fall for Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) and it has appeared many times on their channel.

Our website has had 10,096 visitors in the past year with 6,963 unique visitors. There were 66.24% new visitors to the site and 33.76% returning visitors. The historical society Facebook page has 295 "likes" and it has enabled us to distribute information about our events and activities to a much wider audience than we ever were able to do before.

Funding

Although we no longer receive state funding, we are fortunate to have members, local businesses and foundations that are excited about supporting the work we do. Through the receipt of Room Tax funds, we will be purchasing some new display cases this year. We also purchased a new portable projection screen which has been a benefit to us already.

Chesapeake Energy contributed a new laptop to BCHS this year and has supported the reprint of the Craft history book, as well as other bicentennial activities.

We also received support from Talisman Energy and Mark A. O'Neal & Associates that will be used to purchase the proper metal shelving for our research library and storage areas.

We were grateful for donations of software from Microsoft this year as well.

One of our largest donors this year has been the Ben Franklin store in Towanda through manager, Jay Cory. Our history books have been sold there over the past year without any cut for the store. We appreciate Jay's community spirit and willingness to promote the preservation of local history. Jay has also been organizing a quilt show that will be held at the Bradford County Historical Society on October 5, 12 noon to 7 p.m.

We thank each of our members who support the historical society in any amount!

Museum Visitors

It has been another active year in the museum with over 1,029 patrons visiting the museum. These patrons came from Pennsylvania, Louisiana, New York, Tennessee, California, Connecticut, Vermont, Ohio, Florida, Arizona, Kentucky, Michigan, Washington, Colorado, Oregon, North Carolina, Nebraska, and New Jersey. We also hosted visitors from Canada and Germany.

A number of group tours were also scheduled this year including: Outstanding Young Woman Judges Tea, Columbia Crossroads Cub Scouts, North Rome Christian School, Wilcox family, Sister Jeanne Adams group 1, Sister Jeanne Adams group 2, Towanda 4th grade, Endless Mountains Antique Dealers Association, Adolescent Services, Lennox family, and the Nutting family.

Publications

In the five years that I have been working here, we have published and/or reprinted five books. This is a significant accomplishment for a historical society our size. Three of those five books were done in the past year alone. The first book to hit the press this year was Bradford County Bicentennial – A Photographic History. This is a hard-cover photo book with many rare never-before-published photographs. Publications committee chair, Henry Farley and I worked on this book. I had the opportunity to design this book for the historical society.

Next, we reprinted Ghost Lumber Towns of Central Pennsylvania, by Thomas T. Taber III. Mr. Taber had donated the book rights to us a few years ago with the understanding that once it went out of print, we could reprint it. This was finished and we are pleased to have this popular book available once again.

Finally, last December the board agreed to reprint David Craft's History of Bradford County 1770-1878 in honor of the bicentennial year. This third reprint is even better than the second, with digitally enhanced images and cover materials very similar to the original book. The reprint arrived last Friday and we are excited to have this book back on the gift shop shelves again as well!

We thank the Allen F. Pierce Foundation and Chesapeake Energy for financially supporting these book printing

projects.

Contributions to the Collection

It has also been a great year for donations to our collection and many new items have been added to both the museum collection and the research library archives.

We have also received hundreds of additional volumes of county records from the courthouse this year including deed books, marriage license books, mortgage books, wills and index ledgers.

The following people have donated items to the historical society collection this year (as of August 21): Carolyn Russell, Mary Neiley, Annette Carl, Pat Buck, Joe Wiegand, Jane McKean, Evelyn Vought, Betty Smith, David Henry, Dena Miller, Henry Farley, J. Kelsey Jones, Phoebe House, Elizabeth McKean, Charles McCabe, Marjorie Burgess, Francis Kisner, Cindy Yanuzzi, Ronald G. Green, Janet Ordway, Sayre Historical Society, Trudy Bull, Ruth Deemy, Linda Whitehead, Todd Manahan, Norma Maryott, T. Robert Veleker, Paul Newell, Eileen Corey Sadasiv, Angela Candela, Roger Fish, Marjory F. Horton, Ed Hojnowski, Mary Jolee Heath, Ronald Walter, Tom & Sylvia Abrams, Laura Bohensky, Suzanne Straka, Marolyn Cole, Guy & Marti Abell, Mark J. Waltmyer, Pat Hilts, Richard Grubb & Associates, Sylvia Race, Ed & Louise Eastman, Marjorie Templeton, Carol McBride, Mary Jones, Elberta Mitchell, Harlan Williams, Diana Pelton, Sarah Edsell, and Agnes Gowin.

Thanks again to all those who have supported the Bradford County Historical Society this year.

Library Clerk's Report

Denise Golden

Sept. 2011 - Aug. 2012

Registered Library Patrons - 849

Visitors from Portugal, England, Washington D.C. & 31 states: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

Volunteer hours logged in - 2,972!!

Projects completed/ongoing:

- ~ Tax assessment books copied and indexed alphabetically by township: Sheshequin - Standing Stone (1812-1869)
- ~ 65 research letters answered
- ~ Hoagland Collection placed in archival boxes
- ~ Cataloging of photographs and memorabilia
- ~ Preparations for Bicentennial events
- ~ Misc. filing, indexing, office work, cleaning and yard work

Active volunteers are: Guy & Martha Abell, Lois Ball, Tom & Ann Carl, Marolyn Cole, Sarah Edsell, Elaine Engisch, Marguerite Fox Picou, Marjory Horton, Diana Pelton, Jo Rockwell, Carolyn Russell, Teresea Sickler, Deanna Thurston, & Tammy Wuertzer.

Volunteers who have served 50 hours or more are: Marolyn Cole, Sarah Edsell, Elaine Engisch, Marguerite Fox Picou, Marjory Horton, Carolyn Russell, Teresea Sickler & Deanna Thurston.

Special thanks go to Marolyn Cole who has volunteered for us for 20 years!!

2011 Meeting Minutes

Mary Skillings, Secretary

The annual dinner meeting for 2011 was held in the Great Room at the Historical Society with approximately 40 persons in attendance.

President Henry Farley called the annual meeting to order:

Motion to approve 2010 minutes was made by Lois Crandell seconded by Mary Neiley vote taken ayes have it none opposed.

Board members were introduced as well as new emeritus members Carolyn Russell and Beryl Cleary.

Denise Golden, the society's receptionist, reached a milestone in 2011 of having served for fifteen (15) years. She received a pin and flowers.

Three emeritus members were lost this year they are Sylvia Wilson, Ted Calkins and William Beamer.

President Farley spoke of the upcoming Bicentennial of Bradford County in 2012 and of the events still in the making to celebrate this occasion.

Motion to re-appoint board members James Neiley, Lauren Hotaling, Fred Wheaton, Henry Farley (and as editor of the Settler), Kelsey Jones by Mary Neiley seconded by Trudy Bull vote taken ayes have it none opposed.

All volunteers were recognized for their gift to the society in their time given which is truly appreciated.

Curator Report Insert

President Farley spoke of Bi-centennial book which will be for sale fall of 2011.

President Farley presented awards:

Clement Heverly Outstanding Award to Bradford County Regional Arts Committee with Sharon Kaminsky accepting award on behalf of the committee.

Also, Guy Abell Trustee of the museum will be leaving his position on the board and will receive emeritus status.

Leo Wilt Historian of the year award was presented to Curt Lafy for his research, writing and preservation of Bradford County history during the Civil War.

At this point in time President Farley concluded the business portion of the meeting.

Financial Report

Mary Neiley, Treasurer

The year 2012 has been an exciting year with the celebration of our Bicentennial year. Some of the expenses you see reflect exhibits the society has created to be enjoyed for years to come.

Utilities to run the building as in our homes will reflect in the weather conditions and the costs of such goods. The society works hard to maintain our exhibits to preserve for future generations to come.

I have spent only eight months as treasurer of the society and have come to realize the effort and dedication and hours our former treasurer dedicated into keeping the so-

ciety into what you see today.

Thank You Lois Crandall for all you have done.

Income:

Room Tax	7,500.00
Donations	12,312.85
Scheithauer Estate	1,239.81
Book/Gift sales	18,897.48
Research In house	765.00
Research Outside	1,500.00
Total Income	\$42,215.14

Expenses:

Exhibits	2,244.94
Subscriptions	427.00
Other memberships	150.00
Equipment	2,877.52
Event Exp	7,100.47
Fees	500.61
Gift Shop Exp	3,632.06
Insurances	5,476.00
Internet	310.00
Building exp	15,401.86
Postage Delivery	404.76
Preservation	2,618.30
Professional fees	795.00
Settler Exp	3,692.91
Supplies	6,057.79
Taxes	76.99
Telephone	1,011.24
Utilities	6,305.49
Total Expenses	\$59,082.94

Members of the Bradford County Historical Society

The Board of Trustees would like to thank you for your support!

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