

# Society Journal

*News from the Bradford County Historical Society*

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Volume I, Number 4

August 2008

## Learning Bradford County History Over 500 Students Visit BCHS in First Half of 2008

Each year, the Bradford County Historical Society hosts several school and community group tours that give children the opportunity to learn about the past. During the first half of 2008, the society has hosted tours for over 500 children from age 4 to age 16.

Students from Troy, Canton, Northeast Bradford, Towanda and St. Agnes schools have visited this year. Additionally, groups from Bradford County Day Care and Serve, Inc. have toured the museum, to name a few.

What do these children have to say after their visit? Following are some letters received this year.

"My name is Codi. My two favorite parts are when we went into the old jail exercise room. My other favorite part is when we saw swords and old guns."

"My name is Jolie and I visited the museum on May 16th and I loved it. It is so cool that people brought

in all those things found in Bradford County. Two of my favorite things was the old dungeon cell and the Civil War things. It is cool that the museum is an old jail. I really loved the museum, it was awesome."

"My name is Tommy. If you remember right, I was the kid that needed another bag for the sample of coal. One thing I liked about the museum was the log cabin on the second story. Another thing I liked about the museum was the eye in the old utility closet. Thank you very much for volunteering for not just me, not just my school, the public for us to have a tour through the two story museum, aka, the old jail."

"My name is Rachel. I...liked looking in the room with all the arrowheads. There were hundreds of them! I had a really good time."

"My name is Dana. I loved everything. I especially liked the facts on the walls. I also liked the elk, Oscar. He was my favorite thing. I loved

everything truly."

"My name is Hannah. I loved the wedding dress. The dungeon was so cool. I loved being in there. I can't believe prisoners actually were in there. It was awesome. P.S. Thanks for the coal!"

"My name is Taylor. There are many things I like about your museum but I'm going to tell you two. The first one is the dungeon cell. It was very dark and small, but cool. The second one I like is the jail cell. Why, you could actually learn what it is like being in there. Thank you for letting us in your museum."

"My name is Amanda. I thought it was cool. It was awesome how you turned a jail into a museum. My favorite two things in the museum were, on the second floor, which was the Girl Scout dress and the badges on it. The second thing was the elk, Oscar! He was huge. Thank you."

See *Students*, Page 4

*Check Out What's Happening at BCHS...*

### COMING EVENTS

**BCHS Annual Dinner Meeting  
is Scheduled for October 6!**

SEE PAGE 4

### BCHS NEWS

**FALL MUSEUM HOURS**

Saturday Only, 10 am - 4 pm

## COMING EVENTS

# Program about Canton's Harry Davenport to be Presented September 18th at BCHS

The September *Thursday Night at the Museum* programming will feature a presentation entitled, "Harry Davenport, Canton's Famous Actor."

The "Davenport Era" in Canton was a fascinating time for both the community and the county. The story begins with Harry's father, E.L. Davenport. The September

issue of *The Settler* magazine will feature a history of the life of E.L. Davenport, and program participants are encouraged to read this story to understand the background of this family prior to the presentation.

As an actor in such movies as *Gone With the Wind*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*,

Harry Davenport was much loved by his hometown in Bradford County, and his friends across the United States. This program will feature information and over 100 photos that will highlight the life of Davenport, who was the oldest actor in the nation at the time of his death. Some footage of Davenport will also be included in the program.

*Thursday Night at the Museum* is a series of monthly programs that will continue until October. Each program begins at 6 p.m. in the BCHS Great Room, Pine Street, Towanda, PA.

Prior to each program, the museum is open beginning at 5:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. We hope that you will plan to attend these educational and entertaining programs, and while you're here, see everything the society has to offer.

The final program of the year is entitled "Voice from the Civil War - A Living History Presentation," scheduled for October 23rd.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Denise Golden

### BCHS Has Growing Yearbook Collection

Thanks to some very generous donors, our research center has been able to add a number of yearbooks from schools all over Bradford County.

Volunteers Barbara Tolbert and Marjory Horton have been very helpful in organizing this collection so that they can be available to re-

searchers.

If you also have yearbooks laying around the house from Bradford County schools and would be interested in donating them, please contact us!

Call the BCHS Research Library at 570-265-2240 or email us at [bchsociety@epix.net](mailto:bchsociety@epix.net).

### HAVE YOU TRIED THE BCHS RESEARCH SERVICE?

Let our volunteers research for you! Our highly trained volunteers will research the materials in our holdings. We have a high level of success with most requests, however we cannot guarantee results. Our researchers are volunteers and cannot promise an instant reply, but we try to have an answer within a reasonable time. All requests are handled in the order that they are received. The non-refundable fee of \$30.00 per surname must be received with the request. Photocopies and postage costs are extra.

## RECENT GIFTS

The following gifts were recently added to our collection. We thank all those who have contributed to BCHS.

Barclay Mountain artifacts, given by **Marland Earnest, Bloomsburg, PA**

Collection of genealogy materials compiled by the late Virginia Sleeper Terry; given by her daughter **April Tvorak, Warren Center**

Collection of postcards, pamphlets and one Ulster yearbook that belonged to the late Phyllis Madigan McMorran; given by her son **Carl McMorran, Poland, OH**

Quilt made by Lillian Haigh Duggan; given by her grandson, **Chris Shaffer, Sayre**

"Silent Special" toilet bowl made in Towanda by James H. Carman; given by **Niles Stroud, Towanda**

Seeley Genealogy, given by **James Seeley, Churchville, VA**

Poster: For Sheriff, Albert B. McCraney, Towanda, PA, 1911; given by **Vine Crandall, Burlington, VT**

## DON'T MISS OUR ELECTION EXHIBIT!

See a variety of election booths used in Bradford County over the past century and check out the collection of presidential election newspaper headlines.

Hurry! They're only on display until the end of October!

## Remembering a World War I Army Veteran

The Bradford County Historical Society was pleased to receive a collection of World War I items from the family of the late Herbert L. Campbell of Sayre.

Mr. Campbell was born in Athens Township on November 6, 1895 and resided in the Valley area his entire life. He was an Army combat veteran of World War I and served overseas with Company G, III Infantry of the 28th Division.

Known as the "Iron Division" because of its fierce combat abilities during World War I, the 28th is the oldest division in the armed forces of the United States.

Campbell entered the service on October 4, 1917. After training, the 28th Division arrived in France on May 18, 1918 and was committed to battle on July 14th.

Soldiers of this Division participated in six major campaigns: Champagne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Marne, Lorraine, and Meuse-Argonne. During those campaigns, over 14,000 battle casualties were suffered by the division.

Campbell was discharged on June 23, 1919 at Fort Dix, NJ. He passed away on April 21, 1974 and was buried with full military honors in the Tioga Point Cemetery.

On July 19, 2008, his family, including his wife, Letha Campbell Boughton, and children Doris Williams, William Campbell, and Geraldine Depew visited the museum in order to present two large framed photographs of the IIIth Infantry and a framed memorial that includes his dog tags, uniform buttons, and the last picture taken of him.

BCHS is honored to receive this memorial and appreciates the service of Herbert Campbell, a World War I Bradford County soldier.

## NOTES FROM THE CURATOR Matt Carl

### A BUSY SUMMER

This summer has been busy at BCBS with a variety of projects being completed by staff and volunteers. Many of these projects include the reorganization of our archival material to allow staff to access it quickly and efficiently.

Our volunteers have been busy with projects such as organizing our collection of county postcards and creating a computer database of these for both inventory and research purposes.

Other parts of our collection continue to be placed into acid-free archival safe storage boxes and folders.

### TROY NEWSPAPERS

A project was completed this summer that has allowed a series of Troy newspapers to be available for research on our computers. Three different publications are involved and include the New Star (1845-46), Northern Tier Gazette (1866-87), and the Troy Register (1885-99).

The Allen F. Pierce Foundation provided the funding to pay for this much needed project.

### MUSEUM TOUR GUIDE

If you have visited the museum this summer, you probably met our tour guide, Amanda Rockwood. Amanda has done an excellent job for us performing the variety of duties that her position requires.

She will soon be heading back to college and we wish her well in the upcoming year.

The museum hours will change for the fall season beginning on Labor Day weekend.

This fall is a great time to come out and see what is happening at BCBS! Visit our research library, our permanent and rotating museum exhibits, and our programs!

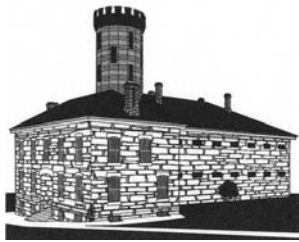
**WONDERING WHAT  
INFORMATION  
YOU CAN FIND IN  
OUR RESEARCH  
LIBRARY?**

**Visit our website!**

**[www.bradfordhistory.com](http://www.bradfordhistory.com)**



**The family of Herbert L. Campbell present a collection of World War I items to the Bradford County Historical Society.**



*Bradford County Historical Society*  
109 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848

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## Mark Your Calendar - Annual Meeting Set for October 6th!

The 2008 Annual Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6th at the Towanda Country Club, Wysox.

A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by a short business meeting that will highlight the accomplishments of the past year. Following the meeting, "The Frances Slocum Story" will be presented by William Bachman.

Reservations of \$22.50 per person (including tip) are due by October 1st.

Don't miss this opportunity to come and find out how the Historical Society is working to preserve county history. Also don't miss the great food and an interesting program. Reservation forms will be mailed out soon!

### PaHR-Access Seeking Online Availability for Pennsylvania Death Certificates

For more information about the cause, visit their website:

[users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access](http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access)

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## Society Journal

Quarterly Newsletter  
of the Bradford County  
Historical Society

Matthew T. Carl, Editor & Designer

### RESEARCH LIBRARY HOURS:

Wednesday-Friday, 10 am - 4 pm  
First Saturday Monthly, 10 am - 2 pm

### FALL MUSEUM HOURS:

Saturday Only, 10 am - 4 pm

### Students continued

"My name is Jennifer. My favorite part of the museum was the dresses and the log cabin. The log cabin is cool. I liked the elk - I liked the name, Oscar, too. You guys did good as our tour guides. I would want to come back with my parents and buy some things. They looked neat. The scouts dresses were nice to look at. Thank you for the coal! The baby carriage was awesome. It has like little couches! It's so cute. Thank you!"

"My name is Cory. You did a

good job as our tour guides. I liked the dungeon! You should put mice in it. Can the elk talk? You did a good job."

"My name is Jason. My two favorite parts were the army section and I liked the coal carts. They cool."

"My name is Te'a. It was fun to see how the clothes looked in the 1800's. I had a fun time. Thank you."

"My name is Tara. I like looking at the very old things and getting coal from Barclay Mountain. It was cool to look at them old things and see what they are."