



# Society Journal

*News from the Bradford County Historical Society*

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## **Bicentennial Committee Formed BCHS Plans for Anniversary of Bradford County**

The BCHS Board of Trustees have taken the first step in planning for the bicentennial of Bradford County. The bicentennial will begin with 2010 and end in 2012.

According to Henry Farley, Bicentennial Committee Chairman, the county of Ontario was estab-

lished in 1810 with the present boundaries. On March 24, 1812, the governor approved, among other things, a change of name for the county to Bradford, in honor of former attorney general of the United States, William Bradford.

The committee will discuss

ways to commemorate this event, including a possible new publication by the society.

It is the hope of the society board that others in the county will begin to consider how they may be able to celebrate the bicentennial, which is a few short years away.

### **Barclay Mountain History Book Deemed A Success**

The society released it's newest book, *Barclay Mountain - A History*, to the public early in December 2007 and are pleased to report that nearly 800 copies have been sold over the past two months.

With 370 pages and over 400 photographs, this history is the most extensive collection of information ever published on the topic of Barclay Mountain.

Writers and editors, Guy & Marti Abell, and book designer and BCHS Curator Matt Carl, have visited several groups to speak about the new book. If you are interested in a speaking engagement for your group, call the historical society at 265-2240.

The book can be purchased by calling the historical society or online through the BCHS eBay Store.

### **St. Patricks Day Gala Set for March 13 at the Museum**

The Bradford County Historical Society and the Central Bradford County Chamber of Commerce will once again team up to host the annual St. Patrick's Day Gala at the Bradford County Museum on Thursday, March 13th. The festivities will begin at 5:30 and end at 8:30.

The evening will include lively Celtic music, a buffet of Irish food, beer and wine, fabulous door prizes, and a 50/50 raffle. The featured entertainer will be Pat Kane, "The Irish Balladeer", who will perform for your musical enjoyment in the Great Room throughout the evening.

The museum's exhibit floors will be open for those wishing to tour the "old jail" building located at 109 Pine

See *St. Patrick's Day*, Page 2

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

#### **COMING EVENTS**

*St. Patricks Day Gala*  
Coming March 13!

#### **BCHS NEWS**

**Monthly Programming  
Planned for 2008 Season**

~ SEE PAGE TWO ~

*St. Patrick's Day* continued

Street in Towanda.

Tickets are \$12 in advance (\$15 at the door). To purchase advance tickets and information stop in or call the BCHS (W-F) at 109 Pine Street, Towanda, 265-2240 or the CBCCC (M-F) at 601 Main St, Towanda, 268-2732.

## BCHS Volunteers Working On Variety of Projects

The volunteers at the Bradford County Historical Society are always busy. Library Clerk, Denise Golden, reports that volunteers are working on the following projects.

Tax Assessment Records are being copied, indexed and placed in notebooks in order to help preserve the original documents.

Several of our volunteers are working on answering research queries received from all over the United States.

Birth, death and marriage information is being abstracted and filed.

Settler and Sayre Quarterly indexes are being kept up to date.

The photo collection is being organized and inventoried.

A master index is being created for all county cemeteries.

The postcard collection is being organized by town and placed into new archival safe albums.

The 1858 Bradford County map is being indexed.

## COMING EVENTS

# Monthly Programming Being Planned for the 2008 Season

The Bradford County Historical Society will hold evening programming once each month between Spring and Fall of this year.

The programming schedule is currently being compiled and will feature a variety of speakers on various topics. A schedule will be announced in the next edition of this newsletter.

We are grateful for contributions from the Allen F. Pierce Foundation and the Hilliard Foundation that have made it possible for the society to update its audio/visual equipment. As a result, we now have the capability of bringing our patrons a variety of educational experiences.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Denise Golden

We reported in our November 2007 newsletter that the Waterloo Historical Society had donated a collection of photographs labelled Patterson-Mitchell.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Jere Mitchell of Columbia, MO, requested a surname search for those

same names. Much to everyone's surprise, those photographs were of his own family members!

Thankfully, most of them were labelled and provided many links into Jere's family tree!

Your donations to our collection help others discover their past.

## RECENT GIFTS

The following gifts were recently added to our collection:

Collection of photographs of the Coveny Farm on Orange Hill, given by *Henry Farley, Sayre*

"Sears List of Subject Headings", 17th edition, given by *Towanda Public Library*

Book containing a folded map of Pennsylvania, given by *Ruth Harvey, Rome*

Collection of photos and ledgers from Laquin which belonged to the Kapp family, given by *Patricia Chubbuck, Port Crane, NY*

Framed copy of the Towanda Review's first edition, 1879, given by *Victor Hand, Endicott, NY*

DAR Patriot Index, Vol. I, II, and III; given by *Norma Maryott on behalf of the Lt. Asa Steven's Chapter of the NSDAR*

Five original deeds and one map which belonged to C.L. Ward, given by *Chris Foard, Magnolia, DE*

Collection of tools and wires found on Barclay Mountain, given by *Marland Earnest, Bloomsburg, PA*

### AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME!

**Color Laser Prints of Individual Townships or Boroughs on the 1858 Map of Bradford County**

**PROPERTY OWNERS DESIGNATED ON EACH MAP!**

**8x10" print - \$10.60**

## BRADFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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.

## Christmas Events Bring Holiday Cheer to Museum

The Christmas Tree Gala and Auction returned to the museum in 2007 and started off the holiday events for the Bradford County Historical Society.

Thanks to committee members and community support the Christmas Tree Auction provided nearly \$2,000 of additional funds for future projects.

The holiday celebration at the museum took a step forward in 2007 and activities besides the Thursday night "Gala" were offered to welcome visitors to the museum during the season when it is normally closed.

On Friday, the "Brown Bag Lunch" was held for those wishing to enjoy lunch hour in the warm and decorated Great Room.

Saturday was for the children. "Kids at the Museum" welcomed families to visit with Santa's Elves and make old fashioned ornaments to take home.

The four day holiday event ended Sunday with the "Annual Book Sale".

On each day there was an aroma of hot cider and cookies throughout the building along with festive holiday music.

All visitors were invited on museum tours of exhibits and beautifully decorated rooms, including the log cabin with handmade period ornaments. A special exhibit of "Toys and Winter Fun from Generations Past" was featured.

Contributions from many individuals, businesses and organizations helped to make the 2007 holiday season very merry and bright. Please visit our website at [www.bradfordhistory.com](http://www.bradfordhistory.com) for a complete list of all of those who contributed to its success.

## NOTES FROM THE CURATOR Matt Carl

There is always something new happening at the Bradford County Historical Society! Below are a few highlights of our recent activities.

### *Wysox IOOF #1152*

As I reported at our last annual meeting, the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows designated BCHS as the official repository for Bradford County Odd Fellows and Rebekah records on September 26, 2007.

Recently we received another delivery of material from the Wysox IOOF Lodge #1152. The members of the Wysox Lodge are very interested in having these records preserved for future generations and we applaud them for their effort and support of BCHS.

Other groups in Bradford County including granges, churches, and clubs are encouraged to consider the future of their own minute books, membership files, etc. The historical society offers a secure and safe repository for these records, ensuring that they will be available for others who are researching their family history for years to come.

### *County Records*

BCHS also received another delivery of material from the Bradford County Courthouse. The delivery included the records of the Bradford County Poor House which later evolved into the Bradford County Manor. These records begin in 1885.

We appreciate the commitment of our county officials who continue to ensure that these records are preserved and easily available to the public.

### *Historic Monuments*

We have been working with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission to have plaques placed back on two monuments in Bradford County. These are located at

Lime Hill on Rt. 6 and at Milan on Rt. 220. This work is now complete and a rededication is being planned for the Lime Hill Monument later this year.

### *Natural History Exhibit*

The Natural History exhibit cell, located on the second floor of the museum, has undergone several changes this winter. Five large photos can now be seen in the cell. These represent the woolly mammoth excavation at Spring Lake in Asylum Township in 1983. We are indebted to Ted Kier for allowing the society to enlarge some of his photos for the exhibit.

In addition to the photos, the 1908 cabinet leaf collection created by past Bradford County Historical Society president, Albert T. Lilley, is again on display. Lilley collected leaves, twigs and wood samples from the forest trees of Bradford County.

Unusual minerals and fossils collected in Bradford County, collages of native mammals and birds, and an owl from 1940 are on display.

Be sure to visit this exhibit at the St. Patrick's Day Gala or when the museum opens this spring!

## Society Receives PHMC Funding

The Bradford County Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has received \$10,000 in funding from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

PHMC funds are used for general operating support and are restricted to historical organizations that are certified by their county governments as the official county historical societies for their respective counties.

We wish to thank PHMC for their continued yearly support.

## 2007 APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to express our gratitude for all those who helped make our 2007 annual appeal one of the most successful to date. Your generous contributions support the ongoing preservation of Bradford County history!

Tom Abrams	Ralph Froelich	Henry Murphy	Richard and Grace Talada
Marion E. Aeppli	Deborah Galen	Jim and Mary Neiley	Glen and Barbara Tolbert
Cataldo Amico	Gambal Printing & Design	Paul E. Newell	Ruth Tonachel
Anti-Slavery Center	Dorothy J. Gard	Marjorie Oi	Towanda Lions Club
Patrick and Betty Barrett	Leslie P. Goble	Osram Sylvania	David M. Turner
Patricia Beckwith	James and Nanette Good	Jim and Marie Parks	C.W. Tyson
Joan Beem	James J. Grace	Sherrilyn R. Phillips	Jerry M. VanDuser
Francis L. Beeman	Elizabeth Anne Green	Mary E. Pitcairn	Robert Veleker
Emily Biddle	Guthrie Healthcare	Mrs. William Powers	Thomas J. Veleker
Azora Blair	Adin H. and Elizabeth Hall	Lawrence Prince	James E. Walsh
Eugene Blakeslee	Charles and Ruth Harvey	James Pruyne	Margaret Walsh
John R. Bond	Raymond and Pamela E. Hilton	Thelma A. Pruyne	Jean Warner
Ken and Jeannette Bracken	Millie Hollenback	James and Jean Quigley	Marlea Rice Warren
Peter T. Brown	Hollenback Community	Anne Riley	Rebecca and Harry Webster
Nellie A. Bunn	Joyce Howard	Clyde E. Robbins	Richard J. Webster
Shirley L. Butler	Frederick Hunt	Ruth N. Rode	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Westover
Mary Campbell Caldwell	Duane G. Hunter	Ruth Tonachel	Margaret A. Whitney
William F. Cass	Dr. Marcella Hyde	Robert and Reta Root	Forrest S. Wilcox
Citizens & Northern Bank	Norman W. Ingham	Jean Lambert Ross	Diane C. Wildon
Kyle F. Clark	Mary E. Jerram	Kay Kinch Rundell	Elsie H. Wilson
Calvin and Ruth Cobb	Margaret Johnson	Barbara Heverly Ryan	Mamre Wilson
Alta Coddling	Rhea Johnston	Richard Schmieg	Leslie P. Wizelman
Robert F. Cole	J. Kelsey Jones	Gary and Gael Scott	Jerome Wood
Marolyn Cole	Bruce Kelly	Gordon S. Secor	Neilson Wood, Jr.
Dr. Jesse D. Coolbaugh	George and Dorothy Kerrick	Harold E. Secor	
Gerald and Linda Corbin	George Kiefer	Dick and Joan Shedden	<b><u>\$1,000 HONORARIA PLAQUE</u></b>
Janet Cotton	Betty Kilmer	Harold and Erma Sherman	Charles Watts Knighton
Wendell Craig	Michael and Lou Ann Kilmer	Mary and Wes Skillings	and John Watts Roberts
Lois Crandell	Bernard Kirwan	Sharon M. Slingerland	Leon F. Russell
Judi Crawford	Charles H. Kovacs	Bill and Beverly Smith	Altaia Waller in honor of
George Clymer Chapter DAR	R. Joseph Landy	Florence M. Smith	Irene Andrews Waller
L. Lang Dayton	Shirley E. Mancuso Zettel	George and Janet Smith	Sedgwick Ward
John Dunham	David H. MacCallum	Merritt Roe Smith	
Mrs. Alfred M. Durand	Norma Maryott	Charles S. Soper	<b><u>GRANTS</u></b>
Kay J. Ervine	Charles McCabe	Arthur and Vida Spengler	Hilliard Foundation
George & Shirley Fairchild	John F. Mingos	John E. Stanchak	Allen F. Pierce Foundation
Henry G. Farley	Andy Mitten	Donald Stanton	Pennsylvania Historical
Don and Mary Foster	Anonymous	Lee D. Stone	and Museum Commission
Stuart A. Fox, VMD	Ronnie and John Moulthrop	Lou Taft and Van Laderer	United Way

### 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

#### MUSEUM HOURS:

June - September, Call for Times

## Many Improvements Made to Historical Society Building

Many improvements have been made to the Bradford County Historical Society building this winter.

During the end of 2007, a total of 77 engraved signs were mounted throughout the facility. This included 69 cell/room number signs to assist with our Past Perfect inventory and 8 directional signs.

The skylight windows in the

Great Room ceiling have each received UV filters to prevent sunlight from fading items on display in the room.

The largest building project underway at BCHS is the repointing of the Great Room walls, both on the interior and the exterior.

This is made possible through your contributions. Thank you!