

Society Journal

News from the Bradford County Historical Society

109 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848

570-265-2240 ~ bchsociety@epix.net ~ www.bradfordhistory.com

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Spring 2009

New BCHS Website Goes Online

New Features, More Information, Photos, Downloadable Forms and Much More Now Available

In an effort to provide more information to our patrons and to communicate more effectively with the public, the BCHS Board of Trustees approved the creation of a new website to replace the site that has been online since 2002.

The differences between the old and new sites are many. Most important among these however, is the opportunity to maintain and update the website in-house, an option not previously available.

If you are looking for a piece of information on the site, you should begin with the navigation bar at the top of the page. There are eight overall sections to the site which are similar to chapters in a book. These sections are: Museum, Library, About BCHS, Events, Become a Member, Plan a Visit, Gift Shop, and Contact. By clicking on a sec-



tion, you will bring up a menu in the left sidebar. Each item in the sidebar is a page that relates to the overall chapter.

For example, if you want to know how to submit a research request, you would click on *Library* in the main navigation bar and then click on *Research Requests* in the

left sidebar. The page will give you all of the information that you need to know when submitting a request. This page features a Research Request form that you can download, fill out and mail to us.

If you are planning to visit the historical society, click on *Plan a Visit*. In the sidebar you will find pages that list directions to our facility, parking information, a link to the local Visitors Bureau where you can find lodging information, a map of Towanda's Historic District, a list (by town) of historic monuments and markers throughout the county, and links to all of Bradford County's museums so that you can plan to visit several attractions while in our area.

Under Events, you can always know what is happening at BCHS

See *Website*, Page 4

Check Out What's Happening at BCHS...

COMING EVENTS

**2009 Friday Night at the Museum
Programming Begins**

See Page 2!

BCHS NEWS

**OUR MUSEUM IS NOW
OPEN FOR THE SEASON!**

Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BCHS NEWS

2009 "Friday Night at the Museum" Programming

The Bradford County Historical Society kicked off its 2009 "Friday Night at the Museum" programming schedule on May 15th with the program, "Ellis Island," presented by award-winning photojournalist and Bradford County resident, Wilton S. Tift.

Several more programs are planned for the third Friday of each month until October. Events are free but registration is requested by calling 570-265-2240. The museum and gift shop are open beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6:00 p.m.

JUNE 19

**SPINNING & WEAVING IN
BRADFORD COUNTY
& THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS**
*A Historical Presentation by the
Home Textile Tool Museum*

Presented by Victor Hilts from the Home Textile Tool Museum in Rome, PA, this program will feature a history of spinning and weaving in Bradford County and the Endless Mountains. See a demonstration of spinning wheels by HTTM volunteers. A few examples of locally made coverlets will be on display from the collection of the Bradford County Historical Society.

JULY 17

THE TOWANDA QUEEN

This program will feature a movie made in Towanda in 1934 entitled, "The Towanda Queen." This movie was produced by the Consolidated Film Producers of Los Angeles, California. It featured local characters such as Bradford County Sheriff, Howard L. Bailey; Lang Dayton; Anna M. Parsons; Richard

Wilt; and more. Come and get a glimpse of 1934 Towanda on the 75th anniversary of the making of this film.

AUGUST 21

THE BRINKS ROBBERY

Presented by Guy Abell, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bradford County Historical Society. Known as "the crime of the century," the armed robbery of the Brinks Building in Boston, Massachusetts, took place on January 17, 1950. Learn how Bradford County helped break this sensational case.

SEPTEMBER 18

**THE PITTSBURGH, BINGHAMTON,
& EASTERN: THE RISE
AND FALL OF A
BRADFORD COUNTY RAILROAD**

A PowerPoint presentation by Matthew Carl, BCHS Curator. Originally proposed as an electric trolley system, the valley of the Towanda Creek contains the remnants of a steam railroad that never ran. The

1858 MAP PRINTS

**Color Laser Prints of
Individual Townships or
Boroughs in Bradford County**

**PROPERTY OWNERS
DESIGNATED ON EACH MAP!**

**8x10" print - \$10.00/e
Plus .60 PA Tax \$2.00 Shipping**

Pittsburgh, Binghamton and Eastern Railroad went bankrupt before the line was completed. Was it really bankruptcy, however, that halted the P.B. & E.?

OCTOBER 16

**ALIVE TO THE CALL:
WOMEN AND HISTORY IN
NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

Presented by Dr. Josephine Dunn, "Alive to the Call" is the story of some of the region's most redoubtable women including Bradford County's own Louise Welles Murray, the founder and first curator of the Tioga Point Museum. This program will be illustrated with slides.

**DON'T MISS OUR
CIRCUS
DISPLAY!**

See equipment once used by Frances "Butch" Brann and his wife, Amelia "Mil" LaPell, famous aerialists who owned a summer home in Canton. This collection was recently acquired by BCHS!

Don't miss out! This display is only available until the end of October!

Feeling Disconnected?

Visit www.bradfordcurator.blogspot.com and connect to all the latest updates, news, photos and much more from BCHS.



RECENT GIFTS

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

Ford & Pratt genealogies, compiled and given by **Beverly Thornton, Rockford, IL**

Le Nord-Est 2008, yearbook, given by **Northeast Bradford High School, Rome, PA**

"Invisible Indians, Native Americans in Pennsylvania", compiled and given by **Prof. David J. Minderhout, Bloomsburg, PA**

Collection of Civil War letters sent to Margaret Jackson by her husband Isaiah; "Social Studies in Bradford County, PA", by Willard Long; court order creating Standing Stone Township, 1841; given by **Willard Long, Towanda**

Chase Family Records, by J. M. Seaver, given by **Marjory Horton, Athens**

"The Irish are Coming, Sligo to Scranton, 1850-1900", compiled and given by **James Dolan, Sayre, PA**

History of William Matchette and photo of Cold Springs Lodge, given by **Nelson D. Math-**

ias, Burbank, CA

Wysox Church History, by Victor Charles Detty, given by **Lackawanna Historical Society, Scranton, PA**

"A Frontier Trianon - The True Story of Azilum Village", by Elsie Murray, given by **Union Co. Historical Society, Lewisburg, PA**

Trophies, tins, trivet, pitcher set and various correspondence for the McFarlane family, given by **Mrs. Edward McFarlane, Florida**

4 ledgers: Junction Canal payroll, 1853-54; Wysox Store, 1857; Check Roll, 1862; and Wysox School Monthly Reports, 1861-66, given by the **children of Esther Pipher**

3 copies of the Saturday Evening Post, 1916-17, given by **Gertrude Bull, Towanda**

Fanning Family Reunions Ledger, given by **Eudora D. Bovier, Troy**

Set of 10 photos of the Towanda Victory Ship christening and 9 of the Maston Lumber Yard, given by **Ellen Kirwan Brown, Blairsville, GA**

Trunk that belonged to Sister Rose de Lima who taught at St. Agnes, baseball items and church sign; given by **St. Agnes in Towanda**

Framed drawing of the Holy Family given by **St. Joseph's Church, Athens**

Card table with Wysox/Towanda business names on it, given by **Verne Griffis, Williston, FL**

Time magazine, Christmas cards and stamps, WWII ration book, given by **Lois Crandell, Troy**

"Teaspoon Holder & Napkin Rings", by J. Lewis Schanbacher; "Abstracts from Charles Eugene Parke Diaries, 1862-1916", given by **Janet Ordway, Troy**

Two oversized scrapbooks of Senator Roger A. Madigan, given by **Senator Gene Yaw's office, Towanda**

Considering a donation of Bradford County related material to BCHS? Visit our website at www.bradfordhistory.com for more information about how to make a donation.

NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

Matt Carl

NEW TOUR GUIDE

Each summer, BCHS hires a tour guide to operate the museum and gift shop for the season. This year's tour guide is Heather Godshall, a 2008 graduate of Troy High School and student at Lafayette College in Easton.

When you stop by the museum this summer, Heather will be glad to give you a tour. She is also busy typing material to add to the new BCHS website.

GENEROUS DONORS

Each month, several donors contribute artifacts, manuscripts and other material to the Bradford County Historical Society. Sylvia Wilson is one of these donors. For many years, Sylvia and her late husband, Carlton, worked to create exhibits in the museum when it was located at 21 Main Street in Towanda. She also compiled many issues of the Settler magazine. Today, Sylvia continues to support BCHS and we thank her for her service.

Last fall, BCHS acquired several boxes of important county history from the estate of Edward Ballard near Gillett. Janet Ordway also acquired many family diaries from this estate for the Troy Historical & Genealogical Society. Recently Janet donated a booklet that she compiled entitled, "Abstracts from Charles Eugene Parke Diaries, 1862-1916." These diaries included family data that would have been otherwise lost.

We appreciate all those who think of the Bradford County Histor-

ical Society when deciding what to do with their family collections and other material pertaining to Bradford County history.

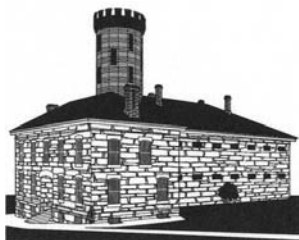
**Do you have this book
in your library?**

**OUR BOYS IN BLUE
1861-1865**

*Bradford County Soldiers in the Civil War
Names, Dates, Human Interest Stories*
**THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE
FOR ANY CIVIL WAR BUFF
\$42.50 + PA TAX \$2.55
SHIPPING \$8.00**

**HAVE YOU TRIED
THE BCHS
RESEARCH SERVICE?**

Let our volunteers research for you! Our highly trained volunteers will research the material 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.



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

Non Profit Organization
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Website continued

by clicking on *Calendar*. There you will find an interactive calendar that lists Friday Night Programs, closings, fundraising events, group tours, and other events of interest. By moving through the calendar, you can find out what is happening in the future or see what has already happened this year.

If you miss an event, click on *Event Photo Album* where we will post photos taken at our programs and other special events.

Those interested in how they can include the Bradford County Historical Society in their estate plans will

find useful suggestions by clicking on *Estate Planning* in the *About BCHS* section.

Did you miss the annual meeting? Download the program from previous meetings by clicking on *Annual Meeting* in the *About BCHS* section.

Wondering how to care for your family documents? Click on *Preservation Tips* in the *Library* section.

Do you want to volunteer? Click on *Volunteer* in either the *Museum* or *Library* section, depending on which area of the building you would prefer.

Looking for a gift to purchase

for yourself or a friend? Click on *Gift Shop* and you will be directed to our eBay Store.

This is only a partial list of the many new features that are available at www.bradfordhistory.com.

**\$40 WILL SUPPORT
OUR WEBSITE FOR
ONE MONTH. FIND OUT
HOW TO BE A
SPONSOR BY VISITING:**

www.bradfordhistory.com

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

SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS:

Thursday-Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm
Group tours by appointment.

**BCHS Curator to Present
“Laquin - Behind the Photos”
August 4th in Waverly**

BCHS Curator, Matthew Carl, will present a program entitled, “Laquin - Behind the Photos” at the Susquehanna River Archaeological Center (SRAC), 345 Broad St., Waverly, New York on August 4, 6:30 p.m.

This program will feature a PowerPoint slideshow of photographs from the collection of the Bradford County Historical Society. Some of the photographs to be featured in the program have never before been exhibited and were not included in the Society’s publication, “Barclay Mountain - A History” which was released in 2007.

If you have never heard the story of Laquin, why not visit SRAC on August 4th and check out their new museum and gift shop at the same time!