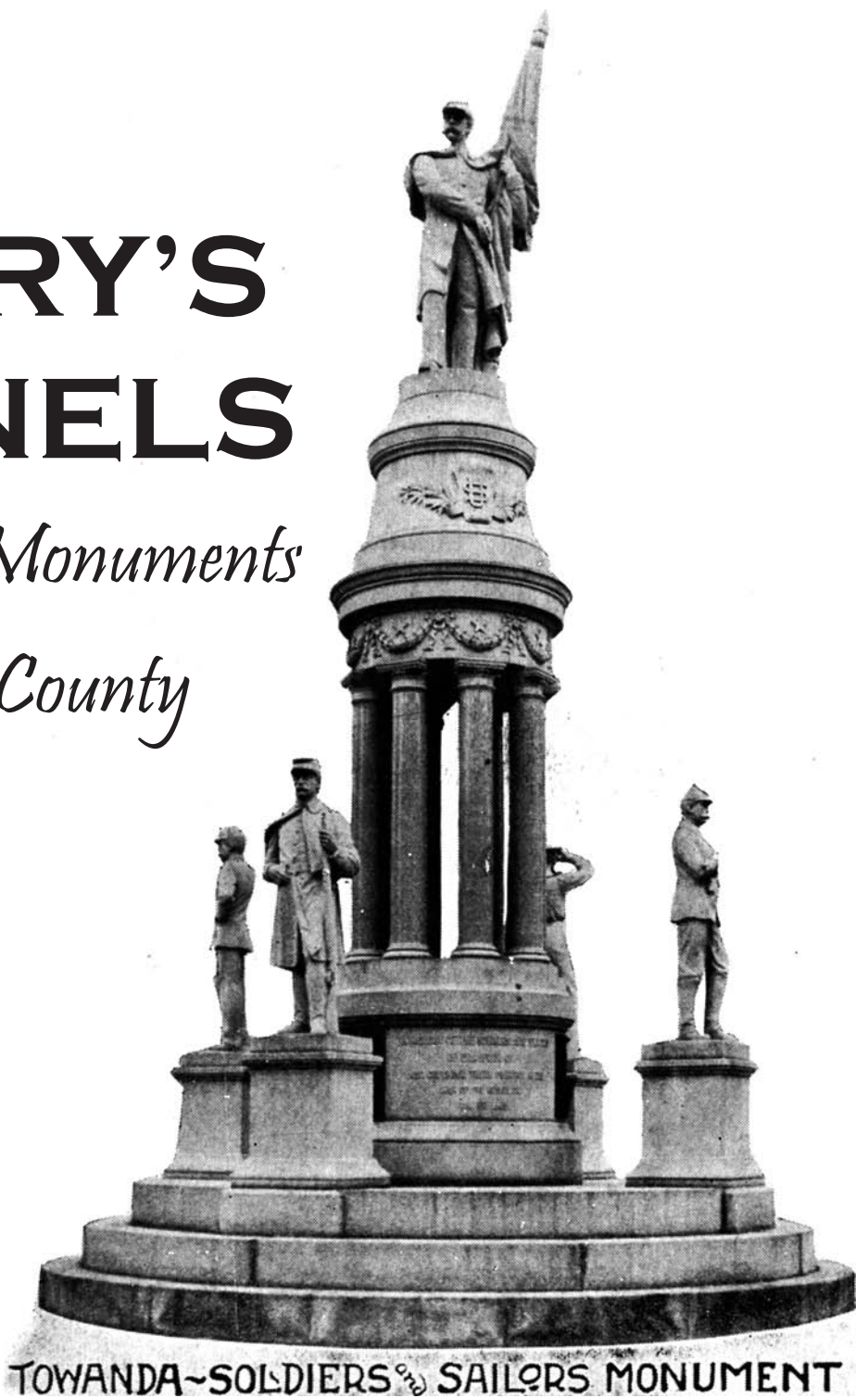


HISTORY'S SENTINELS

*The Civil War Monuments
of Bradford County*



TOWANDA-SOLDIERS & SAILORS MONUMENT

Bradford County Historical Society
ANNUAL MEETING

September 25, 2011



Program

- ☞ Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.....*Henry G. Farley, President*
- ☞ Meeting
 - Approval of Minutes of the 2010 Meeting*
 - Reports*
 - Appointment of the Editor of the Settler*
 - Election of Trustees*
- ☞ Awards
 - Clement F. Heverly Outstanding Service Award*
 - Leo E. Wilt Historian of the Year Award*
- ☞ Appointment to Emeritus Board
- ☞ History's Sentinels: The Civil War Monuments of Bradford County....*Kurt D. Lafy*
- ☞ Refreshments

Bradford County Historical Society

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

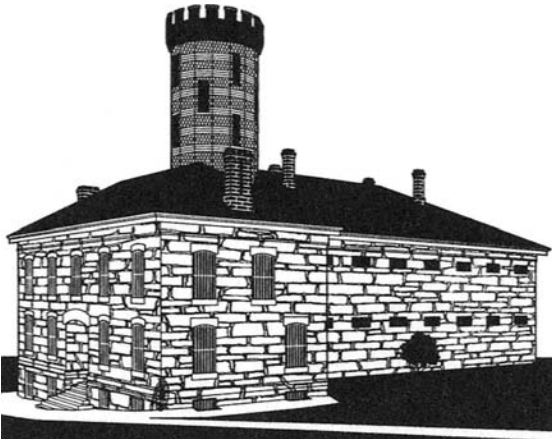
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Gertrude Bull
Lois Crandell
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Henry G. Farley
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| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Matthew T. Carl | Manager/Curator |
| Denise Golden | Library Clerk |



Report of the President

This has been another historically significant year as we commemorated the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Great Rebellion in our country - the Civil War. The society did its part through exhibits, Settler articles, presentations and has planned a Gettysburg bus trip to keep the history of this tragic time in our history alive.

We are also approaching the bicentennial of the county in 2012. We have planned for this year and have several events scheduled for next year that should entice you to come along and join us as we tell the story of how our county began.

The museum research library has been extremely busy this year not only with our continued stream of visitors seeking out family research but we have also become a resource for title and land searches for the companies buying gas leases as part of the great Marcellus Shale gas discovery in our county. Denise Golden, our research clerk in the library and her volunteers have done an excellent job handling the many requests and visitors to the library.

Denise has reached a milestone this year as she has been our Library Clerk for the past 15 years. Denise started with the museum at 21 Main Street in 1996 and has been a vital part of the society family ever since.

Our building is starting to show signs of age. Even though we still think of the museum and research library as new but, it has been almost twelve years since we moved the research library to the "new museum." We have experienced problems this year with the elevator, the heating system and the air handling system. We have to expect these types of occurrences and therefore have to budget for repairs as they happen.

We lost three former board members this year: Sylvia Wilson, Theodore "Ted" Calkins and Paul "Bill" Beamer. All three of these former trustees did great things for the society. Their knowledge and skills helped us to grow and thrive and all will be greatly missed.

Our volunteers are our greatest asset. Without them we would not be able to provide the excellent genealogical research that we currently do. We also have volunteers who like to work in specific areas such as photography, documents, assessment records to name a few. Our volunteers are Martha Abell, Lois Ball, Pat Buck, Tom Carl, Ann Carl, Marolyn Cole, Sarah Edsell, Elaine Engisch, Marjory Horton, Andy Love, Carolyn Russell, Teresea Sickler, Deanna Thurson, Connie Ziemski.

Volunteers with more than 50 hours of service this year are Marti Abell, Marolyn Cole, Sarah Edsell, Elaine Engisch, Marjory Horton, Carolyn Russell, Teresea Sickler and Deanna Thurston.

Thank you all for your commitment to the Bradford Count Historical Society.

Our annual appeal for 2010 was successful; a special thanks goes out to our membership for supporting this effort as we surpassed our goal of \$10,000. The loss of our operations

funding from the Commonwealth was a hard pill to swallow but thanks to our membership we were able to supplement our budget with their gifts.

Our Trustees are special people; all willing to give their time and talent to the preservation of Bradford County history and continuously coming up with ideas to help the society grow and flourish.

Matt Carl, our curator continues to be amazing. Matt has been blessed with many talents all of which are apparent in the museum as you look at Matt's work in exhibit design and construction. His computer skills are also apparent in the programs he generates for events along with laying out entire books for publication. We are fortunate to have Matt and look forward to his next brain child whatever that might be.

Our books and publications continue to be a great source of income for us. We are pleased to be offering yet another publication for sale this year, that being a pictorial history of Bradford County to commemorate our bicentennial with about 900 photographs that will surely be the talk at many family gatherings after it is released in December.

I continue to serve as Editor of THE SETTLER, our quarterly magazine that was born in 1952. My focus this year has been local news about the Civil War along with other items of local historical significance. One thing I researched in great detail was the CWA Civil Works Administration and the WPA Works Progress Administration and realized through this research that there is still so much history to be told. These stories need to be told if we are to continue to preserve and protect our heritage.

I close by thanking everyone that supports our society. We have been in existence for 141 years and it is through the support of our members and trustees that we survive. 2012 will be an exciting year for the society and the county as we celebrate 200 years of existence.

Henry G. Farley

President

MANAGER / CURATOR'S REPORT

Matthew Carl

This has been another exciting year at the Bradford County Historical Society.

Operations

The Bradford County Historical Society has occupied the former Bradford County jail for a decade now and as time passes we are being challenged with various building maintenance issues. We continue to count on the support of our members and patrons to be able to make repairs in a timely manner. The Buildings & Grounds committee has been gathering information and estimates in order to complete some projects that were suggested in the energy audit that was done for the Society in 2009.

Our research center was closed from January through March allowing the Society to save money on gas during the winter. Thanks to our membership in the Central Bradford County Chamber of Commerce, the Society was able to participate in an energy savings program that made it possible for our electric bills to be lowered.

The veterans history project has been moved from our facility to a new location making it possible for us to gain some much-needed storage space for county records.

A workroom was created on the second floor this year to facilitate the construction of new exhibits. Framing, matting and other projects can now be done in this space.

Drew Boardman was hired as the summer tour guide this year and worked from late May until early August. He graduated from Northeast Bradford in 2010 and is currently a student at Kutztown University.

Programming and Community Outreach

The 2011 Friday Night at the Museum programming series is drawing to a close for the season after another excellent year of educational and entertaining programs. This year we have hosted, or will host, the following events: *A Most Compelling Story – 141st PA Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War* presented by Kurt D. Lafy; *Living History of the Pennsylvania Game Commission* presented by Bill Bower; *Bluelady Sings the Civil War* by Mary Hawthorne; *Stephen Foster: Father of American Music II* presented by Guy Abell, Jim & Marie Parks and Terry & Lois Gray; *Hotels of Bradford County* presented by Matt Carl; and *Deserter Country: Civil War Opposition in Pennsylvania* presented by Robert Sandow. The final program was awarded to BCHS through an application to the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Robert Sandow is an Associate Professor at Lock Haven University.

Last October, I presented the program, *Laquin: Behind the Photos*, at the Sayre Theatre. Our theatre events continue to be a great way for us to reach out to the community while at the same time raising much needed funds for historical society operations.

Also last October, we hosted the Endless Mountains Heritage Region Preservation Roundtable meeting. Representatives from Preservation Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation were here to answer questions about local preservation issues. Several local museums and land trust groups were in attendance. There was a good discussion about the effects of the natural gas industry on local heritage tourism, funding options in this economy, etc.

Over the past winter, the Keystone Theatre gave us the opportunity to use one of their lobby display cases to set up a temporary exhibit. A display of unusual photographic prints from the Ott & Hay Collection was created and theatre-goers enjoyed viewing the photographs as they attended the movies.

The St. Patrick's Gala was held on March 16th.

I received multiple requests to speak over the past year, making it necessary for me to pick and choose where to go depending on my schedule. I spoke at the following events and/or organizations this past year: Bradford Chapter DAR 100th Anniversary Dinner in Canton, Evergreen Lodge in Monroeton, Rural Amity Lodge Christmas Banquet in Athens, Sayre Senior Center, Canton Senior Center, and the Wyalusing Senior Center.

After accepting the invitation to speak at the Bradford Chapter DAR event, I discovered that my great-grandmother, who was Regent of the Bradford Chapter in the 1950's and 60's as well as during the 50th anniversary of the chapter,

had led the program at the 50th anniversary celebration. Fifty years later, I was speaking at the 100th anniversary celebration. Neither the Bradford Chapter nor I knew this information when the event was scheduled!

On June 7 & 8, we hosted a workshop in the Great Room entitled, *Archives Without Tears* with a crowd of approximately 25 to 30 people each day. Some who had only registered for the first day decided to also come back for the second day and pay the extra money as they found it very informative. BCHS staff and some volunteers attended and all but one of Bradford County's ten museums were represented. The longest distance traveled was a person from Cambria County. We received several comments from people who were glad that we had hosted the event. The workshop was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the three presenters were from the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg.

I participated in Conservation Field Day at Canton Elementary School in the spring and taught eight groups of 4th graders a short history of coal mining and lumbering on Barclay Mountain and how the mountain recovered after these industries were gone. I took with me large pieces of coal, slate, burnt slate and sandstone from a coal mine and also a coal miners hat, canary in a cage and photos to go with the session. There seemed to be a lot of interest and questions from the kids.

On June 21st I attended the Senior Citizens picnic at Alparon Park in Troy with a display about the historical society and what we do. I answered several questions and distributed brochures.

We hosted a poetry reading in the Great Room with internationally acclaimed poet Craig Czury on September 21. This program was part of a regional writing project entitled, *COMMON GROUND: A Community Conversation about Natural Gas and Northeastern PA*.

We are hosting a bus trip to Gettysburg on October 8th following the footsteps of the 141st PA Volunteer Infantry. Kurt Laby will be giving a walking tour of the area where the 141st fought during the battle of Gettysburg. The bus was filled well ahead of the deadline and we are discussing other bus tour dates for next year.

Outreach through Print and Electronic Media

BCHS now publishes the newsletter, *Society Journal*, twice each year (spring and fall), beginning this year.

Since the last annual meeting, BCHS has been featured in local newspapers over 100 times. This constant stream of information to the public continues to bring new people to our facility to use our resources or participate in our programs.

Our online presence has grown consistently. We have had 6,000 unique website visitors since the last annual meeting with a total of over 51,000 page views. Over 60% of our website visitors are new to the site and the remaining 40% have visited the site repeatedly. The top countries from which our website patrons are located are the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Germany. Visitors are referred to our site through 197 links from other websites including the major search engines, as well as Facebook, the official county site, Joyce Tice's Tri-Counties site and Wikipedia. During website visits, patrons are most often accessing the pages that list our research center resources, information for planning a visit, and our research request form.

Our presence on Facebook is also beneficial for sharing news and information. Currently, 217 people "like" the page.

The amount of sales of books and tickets through eBay and our website ticket office have amounted to over \$2,400 this year.

Funding

As reported last year, the state eliminated the Operating grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission that we have relied on for several years. We expect that this funding will not be restored anytime in the foreseeable future. This means that we rely on the support of the public to provide the funds that are needed to operate this facility and protect the collection of historical information and objects that tell the story of Bradford County. Your support through membership, the annual appeal, book sales, etc. are vitally important and greatly appreciated.

We received a Room Tax grant to create two brochures about the upcoming bicentennial of Bradford County and

the historic sites in the county. A past Room Tax grant was used to have our sign on Pine Street restored and to have aluminum street signs created for Main Street.

We received United Way funds to support our 2011 Friday Night at the Museum programming so that they can be free for the public to attend.

Chesapeake Energy made a financial contribution to the Historical Society this past year to help pay for energy upgrades in the research center. We are also grateful that other companies are becoming members of the society because they appreciate the services that are provided through our research center.

A Community Development Block Grant application was approved by the county for funding to help address moisture issues along the Pine Street side of our building.

A request was sent to the Allen F. Pierce Foundation for bicentennial activities and projects that we are preparing for 2012.

We have been grateful for the support of Jay Cory at the Ben Franklin store here in Towanda. He made it possible for our books to be sold at no cost in his store and the public response has been overwhelming.

Museum Visitors

The museum opened for the season on May 26 and closed September 17. A total of 1,040 people visited the museum this season.

The following groups scheduled guided tours of the museum over the past year: Freedom Academy, North Rome Christian School 4th grade, Sayre Senior Center, Towanda Life Skills, Towanda 4th grade, First United Methodist Church STAP Camp, Beacon Light (2 tours), Towanda High School At-Risk Students, Outstanding Young Woman Judging.

Exhibits

An exhibit opening and reception was held on May 22 to kick off the 2011 season. Over 50 members were in attendance.

There were many new changes in the museum this season including the featured exhibit, *Our Boys in Blue: Bradford County in the Civil War*. Over 150 objects were pulled from storage for this exhibit in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Other changes include the Clement F. Heverly Exhibit Room with a flat screen TV for slideshows and videos; the Bradford County Bicentennial room; the condensed Native American artifact case; the sleigh which is now displayed in the cell block area of the museum; a Victorian room; and a Bradford County art exhibit to name a few. The framed portraits and photographs on the library wall were changed out and reorganized.

Preservation

The Green Free Library in Canton agreed to loan us the microfilm of the Canton Sentinel, Canton Independent-Sentinel, and the Canton World newspapers to have them digitized for our library. The loan included the agreement that BCHS would supply a set of the digitized newspapers to the library as well. The files were loaded on to the laptop in the research center and are ready for use along with the digitized Troy newspapers.

The Native American artifacts were moved to their new home on the first floor after having been organized last year. This created more needed space on other floors.

I reorganized the photo cell in the research center from top to bottom so that our volunteers could begin the process of sorting, organizing and cataloging the photos. Deed indexes, property records and marriage records in the library were moved to a location that is more accessible to the public.

Kurt Lafy helped me identify several Civil War objects in storage so that we can begin the process of organizing and cataloging them.

We gratefully received items for our collection from the following people this past year: J. Kelsey Jones, Janet Ordway, William Woodburn, Grace Larrabee Bell, Sullivan County Historical Society, family of Hila Hatch Kinney, R. Merle Zavaski, Westford Historical Society, Teresa Dunn, Henry Farley, Michelle Mickley, Phyllis Mulcahy, Rev.

Andrew Hvozdovic, Rev. & Mrs. James Donahoo, Matt Carl, Nancy Van Dyke-Dickinson, Bill & Bonnie Willard, William Fitzgerald III, Robert Johnson of Wysox on behalf of Eugene & Terri Johnson and the late Donald Place, Tom Mahoney, Trudy Bull, Anne Madigan, Paul Newell, Shirley Bentley, Phyllis Knecht, Richard & Mary Bourne Brennan, Emily Ostrom Graham on behalf of Troy High School, Elizabeth McKean, Esther Trowbridge, George & Corrine Tucci, James Taylor, Theresa Reichard, Vivian Bennett, Paul J. Templeton, Willam & Doris Madill, Marjorie Burgess, Ruth Kinney-McIntire estate, and Charles McCabe.

Special Projects

BCHS has provided ongoing input during the process of cleaning up the Bradford County Almshouse Cemetery that was done by the county over the past year. We are pleased that the cemetery is almost ready to be opened for public access after many years. An engraved boulder now marks the entrance, a road has been built, and procedures have been created for cemetery access.

I completed the layout and design of the 1858 Bradford County Atlas book that was published last fall. This book was ready in time for the Christmas book sale. Sturzen's Furniture shipped the books for us and we appreciate their support. This summer I have been working on layout and design of our new photo history book for the bicentennial of Bradford County.

I attended the 2010 Statewide Museum Conference for the PA Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, of which we are a member. It was held at the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsport on November 8 and 9. I participated in four seminars during the day event including: *Running a Sane Museum; Becoming the Museum Leader You Need to Be; Developing Museum Programming for Young Visitors; and Attracting Teens to Get Involved in Your Museum.*

We assisted WSKG with photographs for a documentary on the 1972 flood that is scheduled to come out on the 40th anniversary of the flood in 2012. In return for the photos we provided, they converted a 16 mm film of 1972 Towanda in our archives to DVD for us without cost. Plus we will be listed in the credits of the documentary.

I worked with a college student this year who was doing a short film documentary on Barclay Mountain for a school project. This entailed an interview and a visit to Barclay Mountain to shoot footage of former coal mining sites.

We partnered with the Everhart Museum in Scranton this year by loaning a selection of Civil War artifacts for their regional Civil War exhibit. Wes & Mary Skillings and myself attended the exhibit opening and reception in February.

I participated in the filming of a tour of the courthouse that was done by Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN). I gave a historical tour of some portions of the courthouse and Commissioner Mark Smith did others. I also talked about the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and the courthouse annex building. The tour aired on PCN last Thursday evening.

LIBRARY CLERK'S REPORT

Denise Golden

Sept. 2010 - August 2011

1,237 registered library patrons from the United Kingdom and the following 30 states:

Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, and West Virginia.

2,746 volunteer hours logged (volunteers are listed in the Report of the President)

Volunteer Projects:

- ~ 67 research letters answered.
- ~ Tax assessment records, 1812-68, alphabetically, Pike Twp. - Sheshequin Twp., copied and indexed
- ~ Bradford County fires recorded in the newspapers, 1929-1949, copied and indexed
- ~ Ruth Tozer Bixby photos indexed
- ~ Misc. research projects, indexing and office work

2010 MEETING MINUTES *Mary Skillings, Secretary*

The annual meeting of the Bradford County Historical Society was held on October 10, 2010, in the Great Room of the Bradford County Historical Society and Museum on Pine Street in Towanda.

The meeting was called to order by President Henry Farley, who led attending members in the Pledge of Allegiance to mark the organization's 140th year. It was noted that this marks the 20th year for Farley as a member of the BCHS Board. Among the first orders of business was recognizing Emeritus Board Trustees Sylvia Wilson and Caroline Russell among the attending members. The minutes of the previous annual meeting (2009) were read and approved after a motion by Mary Neiley and a second by Buddy Crockett. Those minutes were printed in the program booklet.

After the initial orders of business, the meeting was turned over to Manager/Curator Matt Carl, whose complete report was in the program booklet. He noted, among other highlights, that 65 families and individuals had donated to the Historical Society since the previous annual meeting.

He reported that the Bradford County government turned over 125 boxes of county court records, covering a span between 1812 and 1930, working with Bradford County Prothonotary Sally Vaughn. Shannon Funk, the Summer Tour Guide, completed the organization and inventory of Native American artifacts and natural history artifacts.

Work continued on the digitizing of Bradford County newspapers, notably from Canton and Troy, thanks to the improvement of storage access. Matt noted that there are as many as 1,000 different artifacts not on display that were recorded and upgraded. A new microfilm reader/printer was added to BCHS resources and the Curator said six new or re-designed exhibits were added to the offerings of the museum. There were about 1,200 visitors hosted, including 13 groups, during the year.

There were significant improvements to online access, adding availability to order tickets for sponsored events. About 250 people were added to Facebook. Also noted under programming and community outreach was the continuing success of the "Friday Night at the Museum" program, with attendees packed to the back wall of the Great Room on at least one occasion. Two outreach programs at the theatres in Towanda and Canton were also very successful.

After Carl's report, Farley offered high praise to the Manager/Curator for the job he has been doing. He also reported that the 1858 Atlas should be ready for the Christmas season.

Introductions were made of Library Clerk Denise Golden and trustees in attendance, including Lois Crandell, who has been on the board since 1972. Others in attendance were Guy and Marti Abell, Trudy Bull, Buddy Crockett, Jr., Joe Jones, Jim and Mary Neiley, Janet Ordway, Mary Skillings, Margaret Walsh and Fred Wheaton.

Farley was again named Editor of the Settler. Officers voted in at the annual meeting were: Farley, President; Mary Neiley, President-Elect; J. Kelsey Jones, Vice President; Mary Skillings, Secretary, and Lois Crandell, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

The Leo E. Wilt Historian of the Year Award was presented to Caroline Russell, former board member, for her tireless work as a volunteer in the research library. The Clement F. Heverly Outstanding Service Award was presented to the Guthrie Health System for preserving 100 years of history of the Robert Packer Hospital, which was accepted by Bill Ransom, Chairman of the Board of that organization.

New Albany's Vince Amoroso, former board member, was named an Emeritus Trustee and expressed his appreciation for that honor.

The featured speaker for the evening was Nick Ross, District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, who made a power-point presentation entitled "Celebrating 100 Years of American Scouting." He noted that the Boy Scouts of America were incorporated on Feb. 10, 1910, in the United States. Ross's jurisdiction includes Bradford and Sullivan Counties, as well as a corner of Wyoming County and the Waverly, NY, area.

After the presentation, President Farley made note of the Scouting display in the museum and that the Settler includes an article on 100 years of scouting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lois Crandell, Treasurer

Account Balances:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Super Money Market | 75,206.73 |
| General Checking | 196.32 |
| Visions CD | 5,134.86 |
| Visions CD | 11,448.54 |
| Visions CD | 11,731.16 |
| Visions CD | 11,658.00 |
| Visions CD | 11,614.46 |
| C&N CD Publishing | 10,207.95 |
| Long Term Investment | 216,692.59 |
| Community Fund | |
| For the Twin Tiers | 38,000.00 |
| Visions Savings | <u>30.00</u> |
| | 391,920.61 |

Income:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| No Tears Workshop | 705.00 |
| Appeal - 2010 | 1,335.00 |
| Room Tax Grant | 4,000.00 |
| United Way Grant | 1,246.50 |
| Memorials | 900.00 |
| Museum Donation Jar | 339.28 |
| Friday Night Programs | 143.26 |
| Other Donations | 1,957.12 |
| Scheithauer Trust | 1,369.14 |
| Copies | 767.65 |
| Misc. Books | 30.00 |
| Membership Dues | 5,070.35 |
| St. Pat's Event | 1,509.00 |
| Gift Shop | 5,099.12 |
| Interest | 573.97 |
| Map & Photo Scans | 37.00 |
| Postage | 299.21 |
| Research In House | 1,315.00 |
| Research-Outside | 1,860.00 |
| Sales Tax Adj. | <u>8.78</u> |
| | 28,565.38 |

Expense:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Workshop Attendance | 75.00 |
| Workshop Meals, etc | 682.43 |
| Exhibits-Equipment | 935.81 |
| Exhibits-Other | 1,721.68 |
| Memberships | 310.00 |
| Room Tax Grant-2010 | 153.67 |
| Newspaper Subscript. | 467.40 |
| Photo Prints | 56.56 |
| Acquisitions | 35.49 |
| Advertising | 1,173.17 |
| Copier Lease | 1,032.00 |
| Postage Meter Lease | 510.00 |
| Shelving | 298.67 |
| Bicentennial Event | 14.75 |
| Postage for Meter | 250.00 |
| Other Postage | 554.56 |
| Daily Review Micro. | 2,049.75 |
| Other Preservation | 113.41 |
| Accounting Fees | 1,812.50 |
| Settler | 3,709.81 |
| Standing Stone Taxes | 73.47 |
| Supplies | 777.39 |
| Telephone | 1,334.83 |
| Electric | 4,003.84 |
| Gas | 1,879.00 |
| Water & Sewer | 143.21 |
| St. Pat's Event | 225.88 |
| Fees | 489.17 |
| Insurance | 3,289.40 |
| Internet | 663.60 |
| Bldg Repairs | 1,076.08 |
| Bldg Security | 225.00 |
| Copier Lease Maint. | 472.97 |
| Elevator Repair | 744.50 |
| Garbage Collection | 202.00 |
| Other Maint. | 100.35 |
| Payroll Student Guide | 916.43 |
| Payroll Curator | 6,330.11 |
| Payroll Expense | <u>159.66</u> |
| | 39,063.55 |

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

| | | | |
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