

Remembering
DR. DONALD GUTHRIE

Bradford County Historical Society
ANNUAL MEETING

October 11, 2009



Program

- ☞ Welcome and Introductions.....J. Kelsey Jones, President
- ☞ 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*
- ☞ Bradford County History Quiz
- ☞ Remembering Dr. Donald Guthrie.....Henry G. Farley
- ☞ Open House in the Museum and Research Library

Bradford County Historical Society

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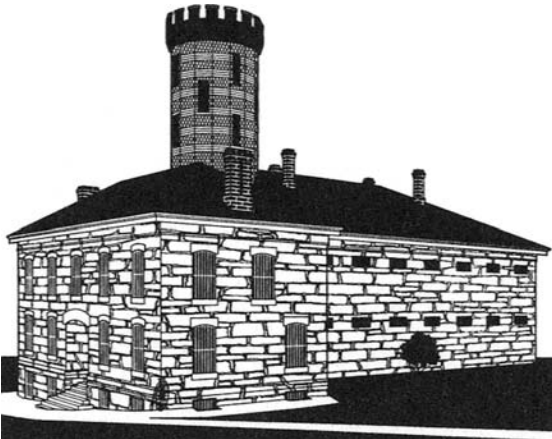
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Matthew T. Carl	Managing Curator
Denise Golden	Library Clerk



President's Message

Dear friends and members of the Bradford County Historical Society:

It doesn't seem possible, but I will soon be finishing my third and last year as President. Next year the board will be in the capable hands of Henry Farley, our President Elect, who is all too familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the presidency, having fulfilled the role in the past.

I will continue to be involved as a board member and will hopefully have more time to do the research that is my passion and which first drew me to the historical society many years ago. I am also interested in locating yet undiscovered records and historical documents that may help so many of us in pursuit of our history or the search for our ancestors, which leads me to ask the membership and friends of the historical society if you have family bibles, genealogies, old newspapers in the attic, family heirlooms, and other items of genealogical or historical interest, consider donating them to the historical society where they will have a permanent home.

Far too often precious family items that you have carefully preserved for years can go unappreciated in the next generation and often lost forever if not retained by a family member. We often hear those stories and those one-of-a-kind family heirlooms often never return. When I was yet in high school I visited a relative who had a photograph of my great great grandmother, the only photograph I have ever seen of her. Being young I was reluctant to ask the owner of the photograph to make a copy or if I could borrow the photograph to make a copy. Unfortunately, that photograph has now disappeared. If only that photograph had been placed in a safe place, such as the historical society, for future descendants to view and enjoy and put some identity to a person other than a name.

We have accomplished many tasks and tackled many projects this year and will continue to do so with your support. Please continue to support the Bradford County Historical Society.

J. Kelsey Jones

President

CURATOR'S REPORT

Matthew Carl

This has been another busy year with a tremendous number of accomplishments.

Operations

The Bradford County Historical Society is not only an organization, it's also a business. In order to make this business operate more efficiently, we are continually improving our facility and our services. Following are some changes that we made this year.

Our phone package was changed to include more services such as the ability to transfer calls between phone lines. Voice mail was also added for both the library and the Curator's office. At the same time, we upgraded to business phones to enable us to take advantage of the features in the new package. A phone was added to the gift shop so that the tour guide can communicate with the third floor.

A new desk/workstation replaced the office furniture in the Curator's office. This change made it possible to store all of the necessary files in the office while providing a meeting space. Most importantly, however, is the fact that the new desk and chair are ergonomically correct. The computer and the fax machine were also upgraded to meet current needs.

Significant changes were also made in the Research Library. Thanks to a grant received this year, the Library Clerk's desk and chair were replaced to provide a more ergonomically correct work environment. The Library Clerk now has her own computer and all of the equipment necessary to operate the library from her desk.

The method by which we make prints from our negative and photo collections has also improved. Negatives are now digitally scanned and the scans are sent online to a photo processing center for prints. This eliminated the need for a darkroom and has saved money for the society.

The Board of Trustees agreed to house the Bradford County Veterans History Project that was formerly in the Bradford County Library. The former darkroom was converted into an office. Veterans wishing to participate can call the office at 265-9193.

Community Outreach and Partnerships

Other than the large scale outreach events that are described under Programming, I spoke at the Canton Lions Club, Canton Senior Citizens group and the Warren Center Senior Citizens group this year.

I also presented the program, *Laquin: Behind the Photos*, at the Susquehanna River Archaeological Center (SRAC) in Waverly in August. This was a "standing-room-only" event.

BCHS hosted two meetings over the past year where all of the county museums were invited to participate. As a result of the ten museums working together, and with funding from the Bradford County Room Tax Fund, a new brochure was created and distributed featuring all of the museums.

The Historical Society has participated in the monthly First Friday event held in Towanda and on August 7th, we showed the silent movie entitled, *Bits of Waverly*, while our restored piano played old-time silent movie music.

BCHS volunteers could be found at the Wyalusing Wine Festival and the Apple & Cheese Festival, selling books and connecting with the public.

We also hosted the United Way 2010 Campaign Kick-Off event this year and I spoke about the activities of the Historical Society.

Programming

We have had a great year for programming at the Bradford County Historical Society.

Early in 2009, we began holding occasional large scale outreach events. The first one was held on February 28th at the Rialto Theatre in Canton. I presented the program, *Harry Davenport - Canton's Famous Actor* to a full house. We will be returning to the Rialto Theatre on November 7th with the program, *Laquin: Behind the Photos*. This programming will be repeated at a second location in the county in the coming months.

Our monthly programming series began on May 15th this year and has continued each month until October. We began the series with a programming about Ellis Island. The following month we invited the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell to present a program on Spinning and Weaving. The movie, *Towanda's Queen*, was shown in July and the history of the movie was discussed. The Brinks robbery was covered in August and the Pittsburgh, Binghamton and Eastern railroad was covered in September. The series will conclude on October 16th with the program, *Alive to the Call: Women and History in Northeastern Pennsylvania*, presented by Josephine Dunn, Ph.D.

Over 250 people have participated in our programming this season and we have hosted a full house during several of these events.

Outreach through Print and Electronic Media

We are always looking for ways to better communicate with the public and this year was no exception.

In January, a Curator's blog was started online to post news and information for people who are not necessarily members of the historical society. This has been popular and over 100 people subscribed to the blog this year meaning that they receive the information in their email inbox every time we post new information.

The Board of Trustees also decided to have a new website created. The old site did not offer the ability to update the site in-house and after almost ten years, we were ready for a new design. After soliciting quotes from various companies, the board accepted a quote from InCommand Technologies of Corning, NY. I spent over two months working with the new company to develop a new design and added content. The new website was unveiled in July and new email addresses went into effect. At last report, we have had visitors to the site from 13 countries so far. The site connects the Curator's blog and our eBay Store together in one place while providing interactive features such as a Bradford County history poll question. If you haven't visited the website, check it out at www.bradfordhistory.com.

Bradford County also updated its website this year and we provided content for the site as well as information about the Historical Society. The county website now links to the BCHS website.

We also received a grant this year to reprint our brochure. This project was completed and brochures were distributed.

Workshops

I attended a couple of seminars this year including: *Marketing in Tough Economic Times*, sponsored by the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau; and *Archives Without Tears* at the Lycoming County Historical Society in Williamsport presented by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Archives Without Tears seminar was a two-day event that covered a long list of topics about managing archives, disaster planning, collections policies, photograph preservation and much more.

Museum Visitors

The museum opened for the season on May 28th. This year, our summer tour guide was Heather Godshall, a 2008 graduate of Troy High School and a student at Lafayette College in Easton. Heather did an excellent job as tour guide and also completed many other projects such as organizing and creating an inventory in the gift shop; typing material for the website; and helping with archival work.

We have hosted over 1,200 visitors in the museum since the last annual meeting. This is an increase of at least 400 over last year's number. This increase occurred because of our increasingly popular programming series and a larger number of groups scheduling tours of the museum.

The following groups scheduled guided tours of the museum over the past year: Red Hatters, Futures, Troy Elementary 2nd Grade, Boy Scouts, Wyalusing Wolf Scouts, Wyalusing Cub Scouts, Northeast Bradford High School Juniors and Seniors, North Rome Christian School 4th grade, Troy Elementary 3rd Grade, Towanda Elementary 4th Grade, Towanda Elementary 5th grade, Northeast Bradford Elementary 4th grade, J. Andrew Morrow Day Care, Beacon Light Summer School, Summer Camp (Warren Center), YMCA, and the Outstanding Young Woman program.

Contributions to Our Collection

One of the most exciting additions to our collection over the past year is the a long list of material from the Ballard Auction that occurred in Gillett last October. This included Clement F. Heverly's original research material, letters and manuscripts that were used to write several of our county histories including Pioneer and Patriot Families of Bradford County, Boys in Blue, etc. We also acquired a collection of 303 glass plate negatives of scenes and people in Troy, Burlington, and the surrounding area. Some of these photographs were used in a recent edition of The Settler.

Our entire map collection was sorted, inventoried, and the large maps were placed into new archival safe storage tubes. Flat maps were placed into Mylar.

I met several times with archivist, Heather Heckman, in July. Heather was in Bradford County as a result of a grant the county received from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The purpose of her work was to help improve records management throughout the county offices. Since the Historical Society is the designated repository for official county records of historical interest, we were very much involved with the process. I spent several hours working in the courthouse attic and as a result of her visit, we received 63 boxes of criminal and civil court records from the beginning of Bradford County as well as other important material. We also received the original naturalization records this year.

I attended an auction in Canton in May and purchased a collection of circus equipment that had been owned by the famous circus aerialists, Frances (Butch) Brann and Amelia "Mil" LaPell, who owned a house on Main Street in Canton. This was a great addition to our collection.

We gratefully received items for our collection from the following people this past year: Linda & Bob Lee, Gerald & Leslie Smith, Sylvia Wilson, Jean Taylor, Shirley Butler, Theodore and Maxine Roy, Sue Wheeler, Linda Lundy, JoAnn Werthner, David & Carol Brubaker, family of John McPherson, James & Marie Walsh, Richard and Sidney Medding, Paul Newell, Marion E. Aeppli by her executor Jeffrey Aeppli, Joan Edsell, Carolyn Russell, William Fitzgerald, Fanna Proper, Thelma Wright, Dan Stone, Harold Kilmer, Beverly Thornton, Northeast Bradford High School, Prof. David J. Minderhout, Willard Long, Marjory Horton, James Dolan, Nelson D. Mathias, Lackawanna Historical Society, Union Co. Historical Society, Mrs. Edward McFarlane, children of Esther Pipher, Gertrude Bull, Eudora D. Bovier, Ellen Kirwan Brown, St. Agnes, St. Joseph's Church, Verne Griffis, Lois Crandell, Janet Ordway, Senator Gene Yaw's office, George Kiefer, Dale White, Mary Edith Davis, Sylvia Race, Phyllis Shipman, Bryan & Simone Stevens, Deanna Thurston, Clarke Historical Museum, Mary Skillings, Nelson Mathias, Richard Webster, Ralph Froelich, Leah C. Bailey, Maria Tymoski Glaser, St. Francis Xavier Church, Barbara Buckenzie, Dorothy J. Gard, Ulilla Costello, Clarke Historical Museum, Virginia Rogers, Sarah Edsell, Guy Abell, Jane McKean, and the Lycoming County Historical Society. A loan was also received from John Watson.

Thanks again to all those who have supported the Bradford County Historical Society this year. Without you, all of our work would not be possible.

LIBRARY CLERK'S REPORT

Denise Golden

September 2008 - August 2009

There were 1,006 registered library patrons from the following 38 states plus Washington D.C., British Columbia and France: AR, AZ, CA, CT, FL, GA, ID, IN, IL, IA, KS, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

Volunteers logged 3,266 volunteer hours this year.

Number of items cataloged in Past Perfect by category: Objects - 132; Photos - 600; Archives - 693; and Library - 327. Total number of items cataloged: 1,752.

2008 MEETING MINUTES Mary Skillings, Secretary

The Bradford County Historical Society 2008 Annual Meeting was held on October 6, 2008, at the Towanda Country Club. President J. Kelsey Jones welcomed all present. Following the flag salute an invocation was given by Ceil Maynard, after which dinner was served.

The business meeting began with President Jones thanking the Towanda Country Club for the good dinner. Special guest, Jason Krise, representing Rep. Tina Pickett, was introduced.

President Jones asked all members to read through the program for the evening which included the minutes from the 2007 annual dinner. The minutes were subsequently approved by the membership.

President Jones asked Margaret Walsh, chairperson of the nominating committee, to present the slate of trustees for the term expiring in 2011. They were Henry G. Farley, J. Kelsey Jones, James Neiley, Guy Abell and Fred Wheaton. The membership approved all of the nominees.

Henry G. Farley was appointed editor of *The Settler*. Heartfelt gratitude was expressed for the many hours of thought and research that Henry puts into *The Settler* to make it as impressive as it always is.

An introduction of our staff was presented: Matt Carl, curator, and Denise Golden, library clerk. Both were acknowledged as very capable and knowledgeable people running the day-to-day events at the Historical Society and the museum and it was agreed that the Bradford County Historical Society is fortunate to have both.

The board members of the Bradford County Historical Society were presented. They were: Guy Abell, Vince Amoroso, Trudy Bull, Lois Crandell, Buddy Crockett, Henry Farley, Ceil Maynard, Jim Neiley, Mary Neiley, Mary Skillings, Larry Templeton, Margaret Walsh, and Fred Wheaton. Those in attendance were introduced. Emeritus board members are Sylvia Wilson, Carolyn Russell and Jim Parks. Although no longer on the board, these people are an integral part of the Society.

We have some very dedicated volunteers and they are listed in this year's annual booklet. Many of them were in attendance and were introduced. Some of the projects completed by this group include an index of the 1858 map; a computer database of all the photos in the BCHS collection; organizing the postcard collection; placing archival materials in acid-free sleeves; compiling an inventory of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodge record books, and many other endeavors.

Our expenditures are exceeding income. Hopefully, this gap can be narrowed. Although the organization is going through some trying financial times, the board is hopeful that our membership will help with the resources to close this gap and also to reach out to non-members and bring them into the BCHS.

At this time the annual awards were presented. The Leo E. Wilt Historian of the Year Award is presented to a person who the board feels has made a significant individual contribution to Bradford County History. The winner this year was Marolyn Cole. She has been a dependable volunteer from as far back as volunteer records go, which is since March of 1993. Over these 15-plus years, she has become a very knowledgeable research volunteer, answering countless letters as well as assisting patrons who visit our research center.

The Clement F. Heverly Award for Outstanding Service was then presented. The award is presented to a person or organization in recognition for the creation and preservation of an independent website dedicated to the history in three counties of Bradford, Tioga and Chemung. The site is free to the public and began in 1996. There are about 20,000 pages dedicated, as she would say, "to the people that share her dedication to the area." The award was presented to Joyce Tice.

The business meeting was adjourned and this year's program was presented. The speakers for the evening were William Bachman, Jonathan Pineno, and Florence Howanitz. These individuals collaborated in the production of the film, "Frances Slocum, Child of Two Americas." The film was shown and, following it, there was additional information provided on the making of the film. After the viewing of the film, questions from the audience were answered.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lois Crandell, Treasurer

Assets:

General Checking	2,335.61
Money Market	62,875.65
Long Term Investments	166,722.78
CDS	49,609.58
CDS for Publishing	20,181.41
Miscellaneous	<u>25.00</u>
	301,750.03

Liabilities:

Sales Tax Payable	172.87
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Income:

Grants	28,725.00
Campbell Foundation	2,500.00
Gas Lease Asylum Twp.	66,000.00
Membership Appeal 2009	2,310.00
Pierce Foundation	10,000.00
Tozer-Bixby Trust	7,668.43
Miscellaneous Donations	6,797.29
Copies	1,088.80
Membership Dues	5,354.00
Events	1,270.00
Gift Shop	7,816.55
Interest	1,261.04
Map & Photo Scans	506.40
Postage	438.24
Research	2,620.00
Miscellaneous	<u>779.36</u>
	145,135.11

Expenditures:

Acquisitions-Circus Equip	340.00
Advertising	1,122.08
Computer Program	100.49
Curator Fund	98.34
Dues and Subscriptions	330.00
Fax Machine	69.99
Copier Lease	1,161.00
Postage Meter Rental	374.75
Telephone System	389.97
Event Participation	145.00
Fees	1,061.41
Insurance	4,277.40
Library Grant	4,364.34
Library Acquisition	188.22
Internet and Web Site	5,736.29
Payroll, Curator, Clerks	12,360.60
Room Tax Grant	2,073.79
Maintenance-Security	225.00
Maintenance-Copier Lease	461.11
Maintenance Heat/AC	500.00
Parking Spaces (7)	1,260.00
Garbage Collection	273.03
Equipment Repair	531.33
Misc. Maintenance	853.20
Postage	1,511.10
Preservation	3,045.85
Professional Fees	4,300.00
Gift Shop Inventory	134.52
Settler Quarterly	4,009.28
Supplies Office/Library	1,700.81
Events	708.66
Taxes-Standing Stone	70.64
Telephone	1,549.64
Utilities - Gas	9,270.29
Utilities - Electric	3,380.67
Utilities-Water & Sewer	228.33
Volunteer Lunch	131.76
Miscellaneous	<u>76.14</u>
	68,415.03

SETTLER COMMITTEE

Henry G. Farley, Editor

I can hardly believe that I have been editor of our quarterly publication for seven years. It seems I live by the deadlines and plan my free time around knowing that I have to have an issue ready to go to press by a certain date four times a year. Believe me those deadlines come fast but I have been able to meet them so far.

This was a particularly good year for the magazine as we had several excellent submissions that caused some interest with our readers and after all that is what we are trying to do - create historic awareness.

Next year we begin a time of great history for our county as we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Ontario County (what Bradford was named first) in 2010 that will be followed by the 200th anniversary of Bradford County in 2012. I plan to use many items printed in past issues of *The Settler* along with new finds from our files at the museum in the issues over the next two years as this will be a great time for remembering and telling of our past.

I will continue to accept submissions for review for possible publication in *The Settler*. Send articles and photographs to the museum in my care. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions for things that you would like to see printed as you are the reader and I am here to accommodate you.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

Ceil Maynard

The Bradford County Historical Society has nearly fifty volunteers giving their time on a regular basis, as needed. The areas using volunteers include the Board of Trustees, the Research Library, special events, maintenance, cleaning and the over all operation of the physical building and grounds.

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees to honor their volunteers on an annual basis. This was done in June by a luncheon and recognition from Board Members and staff.

It was noted that the volunteers have recorded over 3000 hours for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. A great deal was accomplished in the Research Library in answering research requests.

The Special Events volunteers planned and put on the Christmas Tree Gala as a fundraiser for the Society.

The Tour Guide volunteers showed individuals and groups through the museum as needed.

The following are volunteers (besides board members) who regularly donated their time this year: Marolyn Cole, Barbara Tolbert, Elaine Engisch, Andrew Love, Ann Carl, Joan Edsell, Joan Kintner, Carolyn Russell, Deanna Thurston, Tom Carl, Martha Abell, Marjory Horton, Lois Ball, and Sarah Edsell.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Mary Neiley, Chair

The past year has been very exciting for the library at the Bradford County Historical Society. Denise Golden has logged many hours while entering data into Past Perfect, the computer program which houses our inventory of all available research material. As each year unfolds, more data is entered and access, along with the availability to know what can be researched, has brought the society into the 21st Century. Our hope and goal is to create a data base for future generations.

Next we received a grant for the library that purchased a desk with work space conducive to a computer for our librarian. With this new desk our library has been rearranged and the flow for patrons has been much improved. A new computer for the library was also purchased and the balance of the grant was applied to a new reader-printer.

Please stop by and see the changes made to the library and I hope you like what you see. The library staff is always looking forward to seeing you.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE Ceil Maynard, Chair

The goal of the Public Relations Committee is to keep the name and the activities of the Bradford County Historical Society in front of the public.

Articles regarding volunteers, activities, the Research Library and publications for sale were released regularly to the local media with success of them being published.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Guy Abell, Chair

Preparations are continuing on the publication of the 1858 atlas. Our goal will be to get the project done during 2010, hopefully by mid-year. Various volunteers have been proofing the maps, township by township.

The Bicentennial Committee has proposed that the Bradford County Historical Society produce a book for 2012 that would tell the story of each of the 51 towns and townships in the county. It would make extensive use of our vast collection of glass plate negatives and would be an excellent update to previous publications.

The Barclay Mountain book continues to sell well and about half of our original inventory has been sold. In some cases our supply of older books is getting low.

The Publication Committee also wishes to thank Henry Farley for his excellent work on the Settler and Matt Carl for his newsletter and website work. Both add greatly to field of publications and make our museum better known to the public.

GIFT SHOP REPORT Ceil Maynard

The Gift Shop maintains books and publications regarding local history, memorabilia of the area as well as clothing with the Society logo. This affords visitors the opportunity to purchase items to commemorate their visit.

Some new items were added to the Gift Shop for children this year.

Members of the Bradford County Historical Society

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

Guy & Marti Abell	Trudy Bull	Roll and Linda Davis	Beverly D. Gordon
Dr. Leonard J. Abell	Nellie Bunn	Harold C. Davis	Fran Gore
Thomas Abrams	Richard G. Burke	L. Lang Dayton	James J. Grace
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Sister Jeanne Adams, SHCS	Charles & Sally Wilt Burkman	Guy Deauo	Elaine Gustafson
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Sandra Ball	Jean Churchill	George M & Shirley B. Fairchild	Myrna Horton
Marcia J. Bandy	Citizens & Northern Bank	Thomas J. Fairchild, Sr.	George & Merrie Hotaling
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 Michael Kilmer
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