

# Society Journal

*News from the Bradford County Historical Society*

109 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848

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

Volume II, Number 2

February 2009

## Harry Davenport Program Coming to Rialto Theatre in Canton

### Tickets Now on Sale for this February 28th Event

The Bradford County Historical Society is coming to the Rialto Theatre in Canton for a second presentation of the program, "Harry Davenport - Canton's Famous Actor."

Originally presented last September in Towanda, the program has created so much interest in the topic that the historical society has decided to offer it again.

The program will be presented on February 28, 2009 at 1 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for this event and must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Proceeds from the event will be used to cover the cost of bringing the program to Canton and will also be used to support the preservation work of the Bradford County Historical Society.

The "Davenport Era" in Canton

*Visit the new BCCHS Curator's Blog online for movie clips and commentary about this subject leading up to the event!*

[www.bradfordcurator.blogspot.com](http://www.bradfordcurator.blogspot.com)

was a fascinating time for both the community and the county. The story begins with Harry Davenport's father, E.L. Davenport. The September 2008 issue of the society publication, "The Settler," featured 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. Limited copies will be on

sale at the event or may be purchased in advance by calling the historical society.

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. Movie clips of Davenport will also be included.

The program has been updated since last September and several new photos have been added or exchanged. As a result, those who attended the September presentation will be guaranteed a new experi-

See *Davenport*, Page 4

### Check Out What's Happening at BCCHS...

#### COMING EVENTS

**Josephine Dunn to Speak at BCCHS in October**

See Page 4

#### BCCHS NEWS

**PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CUTS COULD AFFECT BCCHS**

Please see *Notes from the Curator*, Page 3

## BCHS NEWS

# Can't get enough information about what is happening at BCHS? Visit the new Curator's Blog!

We at the Bradford County Historical Society are always looking for new ways to communicate with both members and non-members more effectively. A couple projects are currently underway and we are searching for funding for a third.

### CURATOR'S BLOG

The new Curator's Blog was the first addition this year. You may already know what a blog is, but if not here is a definition:

"A website in the form of an online journal, with new entries appearing in sequence as they are written, especially dealing with reflections, opinion or news. Blog is an abbreviation of web log, the log part being the diary and the web part because the diary is on the Internet/World Wide Web."

The Curator's Blog can be found online at the address listed in the ad below. The site has had over 800

hits in it's first month.

If you want to stay up to date without having to visit the site all the time, there is a box where you can subscribe by email or through a feed reader. Over 80 people have already subscribed to this service. Check it out today!

### PHONES

You may have called the historical society in the past and discovered that the connection wasn't too clear or that you couldn't understand the answering machine message. Those days are now behind us.

The board of trustees recently approved new changes with the society phone system. We have changed our package with the phone company and are now using several new features including voice mail.

We have also updated all of our phones to business phones which

will help us handle calls in a more efficient manner.

### WEBSITE

We are also planning significant changes to our website to include a completely new design, more information, photographs, interactive features and more. The cost to complete this project will be \$5,000.

If you are interested in financially supporting the creation of a new website for the historical society, you may send your contribution by check to BCHS, 109 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848. Please write, "website" in the memo.

You may also contribute by Visa or Mastercard. Simply notify us when you call that you would like to make a contribution to the website project.

For more information call the Curator's office at 570-265-7652. Thank you for your support!

## Feeling Disconnected?

Visit [www.bradfordcurator.blogspot.com](http://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.

Framed certificate from the Susquehanna Collegiate Institute in Towanda, PA dated 1889 and presented to T. Francis Carroll of Long Valley, given by **David & Carol Brubaker, Towanda**

Letters to William Mitten from Francis Gailey, 1857-1869; given by **Richard and Sidney Medding, Strasburg,**

### VA

The Farm at Troy, compiled and given by **Paul Newell, Ellicott City, MD**

Marion E. Aepli Collection of genealogy materials, given by her executor **Jeffery Aepli, Stevensville**

Five Lesonian yearbooks, LeRaysville High School, given by **Joan Edsell, Stevensville**

Hiney family Bible, given by **Carolyn Russell, Rome**

Map of Lehigh Valley Railroad system; given by **William**

**Fitzgerald, Columbia, MD, in memory of his parents**

Painting of Gillett's Bridge, given by **Fanna Proper, Athens**

Collection of scrapbooks and family Bibles from the Wright family, given by **Thelma Wright, formerly of Athens**

Corson Family History, compiled and given by **Dan Stone, Severn, MD**

Reporter Journal Newspaper, Dec. 1, 1910; given by **Harold Kilmer, Elmira, NY**

## 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.

## 2008 APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who helped make our 2008 annual appeal a success. Your generous contributions support the ongoing preservation of Bradford County history!

### \$1,000 HONORARIA PLAQUE

Henry G. Farley  
Paul E. Newell  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Reuter  
Mr. & Mrs. John Watts Roberts  
Leon F. Russell

### CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous  
Thomas Abrams  
Patrick & Betty Barrett  
John R. & Ann Bond  
Bradco Supply Co.  
Trudy Bull  
Millicent S. Burnett  
Shirley L. Butler  
Sylvia A. Cates  
Citizens & Northern Bank  
Beryl Cleary  
Miss Carol V. Cook  
Janet C. Cotton  
Wendell L. Craig  
Lois Crandell

John S. Dunham  
Elaine B. Engisch  
Kay J. Ervine  
First Liberty Bank and Trust  
Dr. Stuart A. Fox  
Deborah Galen  
Dorothy J. Gard  
Roger Graham  
Elizabeth Anne Green  
Guthrie Healthcare System  
Trula Haflett  
Linda and Sandy Hoffman  
Frederick & Roberta Hunt  
Dr. Marcella Hyde  
Maxine C. Jones  
J. Kelsey Jones  
David Keeler  
Bruce Kelly  
George Kiefer  
Betty Kilmer  
Micheal & Lou Ann Kilmer  
Bernard Kirwan  
Miriam Kubinski-Phillips

Mrs. Carl Landmesser  
Roger Madigan  
Norma Maryott  
Ceil Maynard  
Richard S. Medding  
John F. Mingos  
Milton & Edna Morse  
Charlotte Wilson Nee  
Mrs. Ray S. Newbury  
Vivian E. Oney  
James E. & Marie Parks  
Peoples State Bank  
Mary E. Pitcairn  
Sally Piollet Powers  
Lawrence Prince  
Thelma A. Pruyne  
James F. Quigley  
Charles H. Rockwell  
Mrs. Kay Kinch Rundell  
Barbara M. Ryan in memory of  
Clement F. Heverly, Sr.  
Mrs. George Scriven  
Harold E. Secor

Betsy Shirk  
Cynthia P. Sims  
Beverly Smith  
Florence M. Smith  
George and Janet Smith  
John Stanchak  
Edward Stiles  
Lee D. Stone  
Sterling and Sally Swingle  
Richard & Grace Talada  
Ruth B. Tonachel  
Joanne M. Vago  
Valley Energy  
Thomas J. Veleker  
Helen Vermilya  
Sedgwick A. Ward  
Jean Warner  
Harry and Rebecca Webster  
Richard J. Webster  
Irene West  
Forrest S. Wilcox  
Neilson Wood Jr  
Dr. Barbara Yanish

## NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

**Matt Carl**

### STATE BUDGET CUTS

We have all been waiting to see what effect the recent downturn in the economy will have for our historical society. Early in February, Governor Ed Rendell's proposed 2009-10 state budget came out and it was not long before we noticed a major change that would have a tremendous impact on our services to the public.

The governor is proposing to eliminate state assistance with general operating funds to county historical societies across the state. Although this assistance is only a portion of our budget, without it we would have to consider cutting services that the public has come to rely on. This same scenario would play out in every county in Pennsylvania.

I have been in contact with other members of the Alliance of Pennsylvania County Historical So-

cieties (APACHS), of which we are a member. This organization, along with other state agencies that would be affected by the cuts, have organized a state-wide letter writing campaign to make sure our Representatives know that we want this line item to remain in the state budget.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the deadline for Pennsylvania residents to contact their Representatives will have already come. We have notified members of our email list and subscribers to my blog. Additionally, the historical society board sent letters as part of this effort.

We will keep you up to date with more information as we receive it ourselves.

### LIBRARY GRANT

Through the efforts of Representative Tina Pickett's office; Library

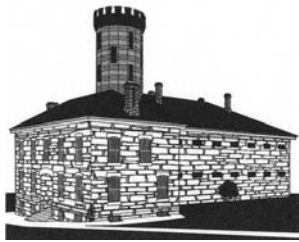
Chairperson, Mary Neiley; and myself, a grant application for library computer equipment was submitted last year. Within the past month, we were pleased to hear that a grant of \$5,000 was approved for the historical society.

This grant is a vital part of transforming our research library so that it will meet the needs of the current electronic age.

The funding will provide a new computer for the Library Clerk, thus opening up existing computers for public use. These computers will be available to view our increasing collection of digitized records.

Other ideas have also been discussed in terms of library floor plans and additional funding will be pursued for future projects.

We are continually striving to make your experience at BCHS even better.



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

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Towanda, PA 18848  
Permit No. 3

---

---

**Davenport** continued

ence, such as photos of Harry inside his Hollywood home.

The use of the Rialto Theatre for this event is important to the story of the Davenport family. A silent movie filmed in Canton and directed by Harry Davenport will be discussed as part of the program. The 1917 premier of this movie was shown in the Crawford Theatre, now known as the Rialto Theatre. Participants in this program will sit in the very room where this premier took place.

The program will be presented by Matthew Carl, Managing Cura-

tor at the Bradford County Historical Society. Refreshments are included as part of the ticket price. A selection of local history books will also be on sale.

To see movie clips of Harry Davenport, visit the BCHS Curator's Blog each week in February to see him in four different roles. There will also be commentary about this topic on the blog leading up to the event. The blog can be found online at [www.bradfordcurator.blogspot.com](http://www.bradfordcurator.blogspot.com).

Tickets are \$6.00 and may be purchased at the Canton Independent-Sentinel or the Bradford County

Historical Society, 109 Pine Street, Towanda. Tickets may be purchased by credit card by calling the historical society at 570-265-2240. If you would like to have the tickets mailed to you, please include \$1.00 extra.

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

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

---

---

**Society Journal**

Quarterly Newsletter  
of the Bradford County  
Historical Society

Matthew T. Carl, Editor & Designer

**RESEARCH LIBRARY HOURS:**  
Closed until April.

**WINTER MUSEUM HOURS:**  
Closed for the season.

Watch for our reopening dates in  
press releases and this newsletter.

---

---

**PA Humanities Speaker,  
Josephine Dunn, to Speak at  
BCHS in October**

The Bradford County Historical Society is again partnering with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council this year to bring another Commonwealth Speaker to Towanda.

This year's program will be presented on October 16, 2009 and is entitled, "Alive to the Call: Women and History in Northeastern Pennsylvania." The program will be presented by Josephine Dunn, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Scranton.

We are currently planning our monthly programming for 2009 and more information about this and other events will be available later this year.