

# Society Journal

*News from the Bradford County Historical Society*

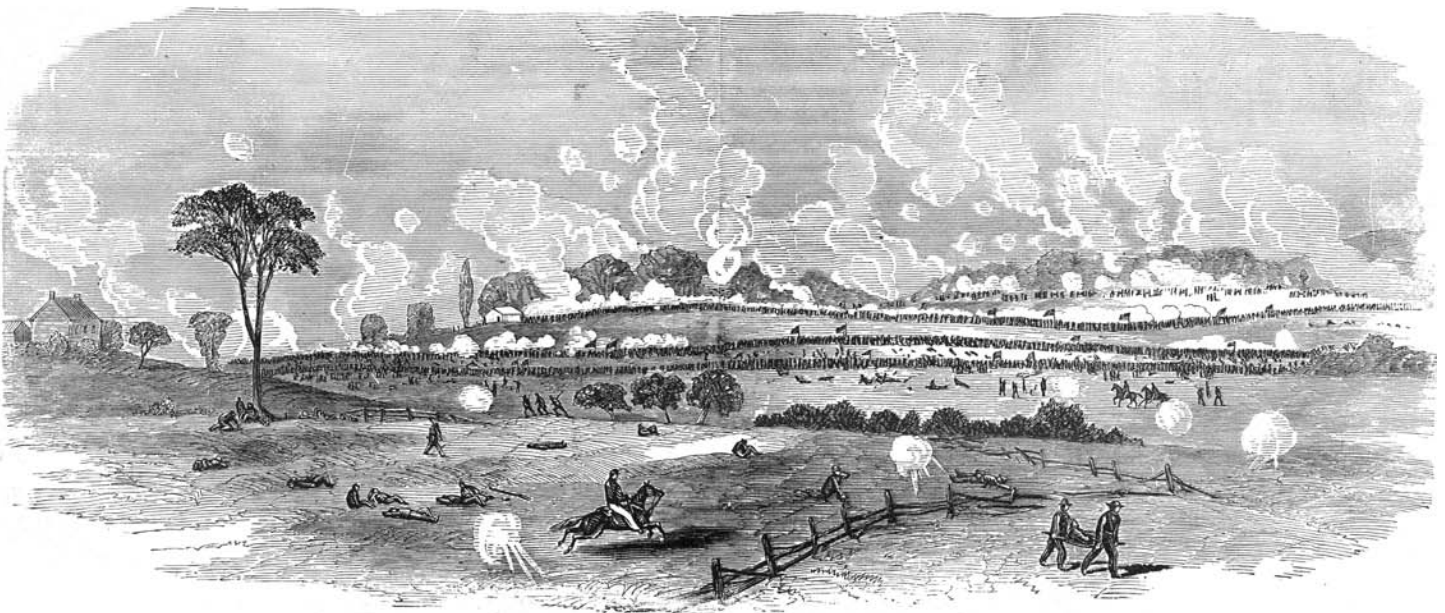
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Volume I, Number 3

May 2008

## Civil War Program Set for May 15 Register Today for this Free Event at BCBS



The public is invited to a free program entitled, "Reminiscing with a Pennsylvania Officer About the Civil War" scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2008, 6 p.m. at the Bradford County Historical Society, on Pine Street in Towanda. The museum exhibits will also be open from

5:30 p.m. until the program begins.

This interactive presentation will be presented by Dr. David L. Valuska, a retired Kutztown University history professor and a Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Dressed as a Civil War officer,

Valuska will discuss the life of soldiers in the Union Army from 1861-1865. Using a variety of props including uniforms, maps and weapons, Valuska will bring to life a Union soldier and his times.

This presentation is a program

See *Civil War*, Page 4

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

### COMING EVENTS

**MUSEUM SEASON OPENING**

May 29, 2008 - See Page Four

### BCHS NEWS

**"Thursday Night at the Museum"  
Program Schedule Announced**

~ SEE PAGE TWO ~

## COMING EVENTS

# 2008 Monthly Program Schedule Announced

"Thursday Night at the Museum" is a series of monthly programs that have been scheduled for the upcoming summer and fall seasons. Each program will begin at 6 p.m. in the BCHS Great Room, Pine Street, Towanda, PA.

Prior to each program, the museum will be open beginning at 5:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. We hope that you will plan to attend these educational

and entertaining programs, and while you're here, see everything the society has to offer.

Programs scheduled for this year are as follows:

### JUNE 19

SPANISH HILL - THE HISTORY, THE PEOPLE AND THE POLITICS, presented by Deb Twigg of the Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies.

### JULY 17

TREE ARMY - a video presentation highlighting the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This evening we will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of President Roosevelt's New Deal program that created the CCC and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), both important in the history of Bradford County.

### AUGUST 21

DAVID WILMOT - presented by Guy Abell of the BCHS Board of Trustees. This program will examine the life of a well-known Bradford County Citizen and author of the Wilmot Proviso.

### SEPTEMBER 18

HARRY DAVENPORT - CANTON'S FAMOUS ACTOR - presented by Matthew Carl, BCHS Curator. As an actor in such movies as *Gone With the Wind*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Davenport was much loved by his hometown in Bradford County, and his friends across the United States. This program will feature a presentation of information and photos that will highlight the life of Davenport, who was the oldest actor in the nation at the time of his death.

### OCTOBER 23

VOICE FROM THE CIVIL WAR - A LIVING HISTORY PRESENTATION - presented by Eileen Patch. Because a grieving mother saved the Civil War letters her son wrote home from his service in the 89th New York, Eileen Patch of Endwell, NY inherited them. She transcribed, researched and annotated the 59 letters. Dressed as her great grandmother, Sarah Englis in historically accurate 1880s clothes, Ms. Patch will look back 20 years to the war and read excerpts from the soldier's letters.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Denise Golden

Marolyn Cole of Athens Township has been volunteering for the Bradford County Historical Society for at least 15 years. She serves on the research committee and is also the first one to offer to help patrons who come in to research their family tree.

While recently working on a letter, she stopped by the Tioga Point Museum to research a house in

Athens for one of our patrons. She was able to find some very helpful information in their collection and passed it on to her client. This is typical for Marolyn to go above the call of duty in her work.

THANK YOU, Marolyn, for being so helpful in preserving the history of our county and also letting others know that this is a friendly place!

## RECENT GIFTS

The following gifts were recently added to our collection:

Four volumes of "Register from Elm Grove House", LeRaysville, 1902-1928 on loan from the **J.R. Morgan Family**; also a framed photo of the Elm Grove House, LeRaysville, on loan from **Doris Morgan Huegal, Venus, PA**

"Jenningshurst Stock Farms", one M. Louis Gore postcard and an envelope of clippings, etc., given by **Mrs. Robert Gauss, Sayre**

Two copies of "The Jas. H. Hawes Manufacturing Co., Towanda Catalogue and Price List", given by **Fanna Proper, Athens**

One hand woven blanket made by Abigail Hemenway Billings of Sheshequin Township, given by granddaughter **Marjorie Templeton, Payson, AZ**

3 Wysox/Standing Stone ledgers, given by **Peggy Richards, Towanda**

One oversized map of Pennsylvania, 1907, given by **Theodore & Maxine Roy, Wellsboro, PA**

### 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.

## NOTES FROM THE CURATOR **Matt Carl**

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bradford County Historical Society was formed in 1870 but it was not until it was reorganized in 1902 that the organization began to actively collect objects for the purpose of exhibition. Since that time, thousands of items have been donated to the society.

Over this past winter I have been compiling data pertaining to donations made over the first half of the 20th century in order to update our inventory. The goal, of course, is to place all of this information into our computer database, Past Perfect, so that it can be retrieved at a moments notice.

While compiling these records, it has been interesting to read about the work done in the very early 1900's to locate items and document Bradford County history. If not for the effort made in these early years to save this material, the historical society would have no foundation.

This illustrates the importance of historical societies in general, whether in Bradford County or anywhere else. In an increasingly digitized, computerized world, one thing we know for sure - if it were not for the preservation efforts of historical societies, our knowledge of local history would be very limited.

As the official repository for

Bradford County history, your financial support makes it possible to preserve the objects that define who we are as Bradford County citizens, a job that we have been doing for almost 140 years.

### DEHUMIDIFIERS

The society has purchased three energy efficient dehumidifiers to replace older units throughout our facility. Dehumidifiers help ensure that our collection is stored in the proper environment so that it will be available for many years to come.

### DISASTER WORKSHOP

I attended a workshop at the Clinton County Historical Society in Lock Haven conducted by Jerry Ellis of the Pennsylvania State Archives. He and his associates described the importance of having a disaster recovery plan for archival records and what can be done before a disaster occurs. The workshop especially covered water related incidents (floods, pipes breaking, roof leaking, etc.) and how to care for items afterwards.

## DuPont Donates Patterson Screen Collection to BCHS

DuPont recently made a generous donation of items to the Bradford County Historical Society. These items each came from Towanda's Patterson Screen Company.

The Patterson Screen Company was founded in 1914 by Carl V.S. Patterson, a Towanda native. In 1916 Patterson went into partnership with Frederick W. Reuter, a former classmate. They developed fluoroscopic screens and in 1936 became interested in developing phosphors for the neon lighting industry, and later for fluorescent lighting.

In 1941, Sylvania bought the Patterson phosphors operation. In 1943, E.I. duPont de Nemours & Company purchased the Patterson Screen Company and expanded it to the size it is today.

We are very grateful for DuPont's dedication to preserving our local history and for choosing BCHS as the repository for this valuable collection.

## BCHS Receives Room Tax Grant to Print Brochures

### Several Additional Grants Pending

The Bradford County Historical Society was recently the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from the Bradford County Room Tax funds to pay for brochure printing and distribution. As a result, BCHS will be printing its newly designed brochure to be ready for the upcoming tourist season.

Other grant applications are currently pending for projects that are over and above our normal operating expenses. The first is a request for funding to replace our three microfilm reader-printers with updated models. Visitors to the research library use reader-printers to research newspapers, census data, etc. This equipment is now outdated and the society has found it to be increasingly difficult to maintain them.

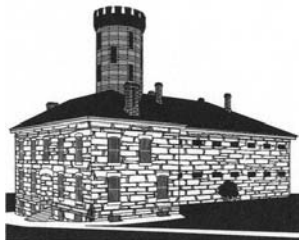
Another grant that is pending is for funds to pay for some necessary building maintenance in the museum Great Room. The final grant would be used to provide a computer and a work station for the Library Clerk.

We will report the outcome of these applications in a future issue. In the meantime, we thank you for your ongoing support!

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

**Visit our website!**

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



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

Non Profit Organization  
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# Museum Season Opening, May 29

The BCBS Board of Trustees have set the 2008 museum season opening for May 29th. The exhibits will be open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each week until Labor Day weekend. Fall hours will be announced in late summer.

The museum will feature a new rotating exhibit featuring some of the early election equipment used in Bradford County.

The society has hired Amanda

Rockwood, who will be the museum tour guide for this season. She is a student at Millersville University and has been involved with historical organizations since 2003.

The Bradford County museum offers two floors of exhibits presenting the Bradford County story.

Through the exhibits visitors can see and learn about life in Bradford County, from the early days to the present. The museum holds ar-

tifacts on early household and farm equipment, early industrial displays, paintings, photo boards, and military objects all representing the county's heritage.

The building itself is an exhibit, as it originally served as the jail for Bradford County for well over 100 years.

If you have not visited the museum recently, we invite you to stop and see us!

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## 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:

Thursday-Friday, 10 am - 4 pm

### *Civil War* continued

of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning. In addition to the Commonwealth Speakers program, PHC offers grants which support humanities programs centered in the arts, history, literature, and other humanities fields. PHC's packaged book discussion program for public li-

braries, Read About It! also serves as a resource for residents of Pennsylvania. For more information visit [www.pahumanities.org](http://www.pahumanities.org).

Although there is no charge for this program, participants are requested to contact the historical society and register for the event by calling 570-265-2240 or by email at [bchsociety@epix.net](mailto:bchsociety@epix.net).

If you have never visited the Bradford County Historical Society, this will be a great opportunity to check out what the museum has to offer!