

Society Journal

News from the Bradford County Historical Society

109 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848

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Volume II, Number 1

November 2008

Original Heverly Research Found BCHS Saves Important Bradford County Collection

The Bradford County Historical Society recently acquired an important collection of material for its files. The numerous boxes of material make up what has come to be known as the Ballard Collection.

Previously owned by local historian and South Creek Township resident, Ed Ballard, the material found itself on the auction block in October.

HEVERLY

Three boxes in the collection are the personal research files of Clement F. Heverly. Many will recognize this name because Heverly wrote several of our most important county histories: *Pioneer & Patriot Families of Bradford County*; *Boys in Blue*; *History & Geography of Bradford County*; as well as many other histories published in booklet form. As a local newspaper editor and Librarian at the Bradford County Historical Society throughout the early 1900's, Heverly had

ample opportunity to gather stories and data from residents across the county.

The Heverly files include handwritten notebooks, ledgers, original manuscripts, and several years worth of letters from those who submitted family history to Heverly. One of the ledgers among the collection is entitled, "5,000 Official Bradford County, Pa. Marriages - 1776-1876."

Also found among the Heverly material are letters from David Craft who wrote another of Bradford County's most important history books.

GLASS PLATE NEGATIVES

A great collection of glass plate negatives from at least two different photographers were also saved. Over 300 glass negatives from northwestern Bradford County are included, many of which are labeled with the name of the person or location, date, time, weather conditions

(if outdoors), etc.

FACINATING COLLECTION

Many other items in the collection are facinating on their own, such as the Quarterly Conference Records of the Columbia (later East Troy and West Burlington) Charge, 1873-1915; South Creek Township School records, 1940's and 50's; South Creek Justice Docket, 1879-82; Gillett Odd Fellows records; West Franklin Odd Fellows records; many Bradford County newspapers dating back to the early 1800's; photographs of Troy, Gillett, and people from northwestern Bradford County; local postcards; a ledger used by a student at the Susquehanna Collegiate Institute in 1854; store ledgers of David F. Duning, 1863-1901 and much more.

See "Notes from the Curator"
- Page 3

Check Out What's Happening at BCCHS...

COMING EVENTS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Christmas Tree Gala
December 4, 2008 ~ 5:30-8:00 p.m.

REMINDER

ARE YOU MOVING?

Please remember to send us your new address.

BCHS NEWS

BCHS Reaches 50% of Appeal Goal for 2008

Will you help us this year?

The Bradford County Historical Society has reached the halfway mark in our goal of \$21,000 which will be used to help us provide services over the coming year.

ANNUAL APPEAL

Our historical society conducts an annual appeal each year in order to help meet overall expenses for the coming year. A portion is used to provide the services that you have come to expect from BCHS, such as a safe repository for records and objects important to our county history and your family history; the ongoing process of transferring our collection into safe storage materials; publications like *The Settler* magazine and this newsletter; special programming; school and other special group tours; and a staff to make it all happen.

In addition to our basic needs, our aging microfilm reader/printers can no longer be repaired as the company has stopped making parts for these machines.

We thank our many members who have already made an extra contribution above and beyond their membership fee. If you have not yet donated to the Annual Appeal for this year, consider how you may be able to help.

No contribution is too small as each dollar moves us closer to meeting our goal.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal forms will also be mailed shortly. With the Christmas season coming, now is a good time to consider giving a gift membership to a friend or family member. By doing this, you will be

giving them a one year subscription to *The Settler* magazine, as well as other benefits depending on the category you choose. At the same time, the membership fee benefits a great cause.

Our collection is continually growing and more material is being added to our research files all the time.

In the words of long time Director Leo E. Wilt in 1957, "You, as a member of this Society, are now asked to do a very small thing for your Society. Get just one new member. It will be easy if you will show your prospect a few back issues of *The Settler*."

"If each of you will do this service for your Society, we will have nearly 900 new members. Can we count on you? Do it today."

"All we ask is just one new member, but if you can get more than one, our thanks will be the greater."

LIBRARY NEWS

Denise Golden

Connecting Researchers with their History

The BCHS Research Library assists many patrons each year, either in person, on the phone, or through the mail. Following is an excerpt from an email that we recently received.

"My sister Judi has just heard we are approved to join the DAR. We are so very proud. This wouldn't have been possible without your help and all the gracious

volunteers who assisted us. After visiting other societies in New Jersey and Connecticut we realize you all are way up there. Many thanks. Joyce"

For information on how we can connect you with your history call the Research Library at 570-265-2240, email us at bchsociety@epix.net, or visit our website at www.bradfordhistory.com.

1858 MAP PRINTS

Color Laser Prints of
Individual Townships or
Boroughs in Bradford County

PROPERTY OWNERS
DESIGNATED ON EACH MAP!

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



BCHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 11AM - 3PM

Bradford County Historical Society, Towanda

NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

Matt Carl

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Do you collect family history? Have you compiled your family genealogy? Do you have photographs passed down to you by your parents? Do you collect items that would help tell the story of Bradford County?

Consider what will happen to your collection when you are gone. Is there a family member who will properly care for these important items?

All too often these days it seems that local family and community collections appear in estate auctions where they are separated and sold to the highest bidder. Many times items are purchased by dealers and then individually sold in other markets at a higher price.

What if your precious family history, photographs and keepsakes

were dispersed to the highest bidder?

If you don't have a will or haven't designated in your will where these items will go, the scenario described above could happen to you.

The Bradford County Historical Society actively collects archival material and objects that directly relate to Bradford County history. This includes items made or used within the county, material written about Bradford County residents or topics, and photographs of people and places within the county.

If you are searching for a place to donate these types of items, consider the Bradford County Historical Society. Not only have we been caring for local historical items for well over 100 years; we also offer a safe and secure repository that will protect your family history for years to come. Our facility is even used by

Bradford County to store and make available original county records.

Consult your attorney about how to include the Bradford County Historical Society in your will. You may wish to preserve the legacy of your family by leaving individual objects, collections, entire estates, or financial funding to the society.

If we will all make sure our history is protected for the future, then the story of our people will be preserved for generations to come.

ANNUAL MEETING

BCHS hosted its Annual Meeting on October 6, 2008 at the Towanda Country Club. The event included a buffet dinner followed by a meeting that highlighted the accomplishments of the previous year.

An excellent program entitled, *Francis Slocum, Child of Two Americas*, was then presented.

RECENT GIFTS

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

Postcard of French Asylum Overlook, given by **Millie Landis-Coyle, Hershey, PA**

Postcard of Bradford County Courthouse, given by **Jill Covenover, Portland, ME**

Photo of Operation Enduring Freedom, given by **Mark and DeLores Crane, Towanda**

Gifford Family history, diary and photos, also photos of Warren Center High School and St. Luke's Church; given by **Sylvia Race, Rome**

WWI medals, and 2 framed WWI regiment photos; given in memory of Herbert Campbell by **Letha Boughton, Sayre**

Harding Genealogy, compiled by Mary Harding Baird, given by **Mrs. Frances Bogaczyk, via Norma Maryott**

Four volumes of notebooks regarding weather, flooding and world events, compiled and given by **Julie Them, Sayre**

Lamoureux Genealogy, by David K. Martin, given by **Joan Phelan, Madison, WI**

Miss Sophronia Pratt's Autograph Book; given by **St. Mary's County Historical Society, Leonardtown, MD**

Two souvenir booklets from Overton School, 1909 & 1925; given by **Dale & Kay Fulmer, Wysox**

Three skirts and one shirt, given by **Phyllis Mulcahy, Towanda**

One quilt from the Kaufman family and two scanned photos; given by **Frances Clark, Las Cruces, NM**

One Trojan yearbook for 1921-22, given by **Matt Carl, LeRoy**

Records of the First Presbyte-

rian Church of Troy, loaned by the **First Presbyterian Church via Sylvia Wilson, Troy**

Dog cart, made in Towanda, loaned by **John Watson, Towanda**

Girl Scout badges and 4 glass milk bottles, given by **Linda & Bob Lee, Towanda**

Paul Felton's collection of Sylva-GTE items, given by **Gerald & Leslie (Paul's daughter) Smith, Towanda**

Benedict farm journals, records for the Monroe & Franklin Baptist Church, and the Big Muddy Coal Co., song books, and papers, given by **Sylvia Wilson, Troy**

Three photos of the Shedden, McKeeby and Cole families, given by **Jean Taylor, Johnson City, TN**

Sears Co. checks, New Albany Mirror newspaper for Aug. 1909, and Robinson's Arithmetic book, 1863; given by **Shirley Butler, Springfield, VA**

Lewis family Bible, Smithsonian yearbooks for 1953 and 1955; given by **Theodore and Maxine Roy, Wellsboro, PA**

Two dresses and one shirt that belonged to Esther Pipher, given by her daughter **Sue Wheeler, Wysox**

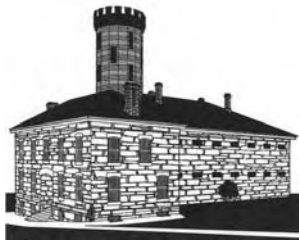
Collection of Wysox Elementary School scrapbooks, given by **Linda Lundy, Towanda**

Lent, Gerould, Forbes, Bradstreet, Bowen, Plum family tree; compiled and given by **JoAnn Werthner, Glenside, PA**

Framed certificate of T. Francis Carroll, Long Valley, 1889; given by **David & Carol Brubaker, Towanda**

Seventeen photos of the Laquin CCC, collected by **John McPherson, given by his family in Monroeton**

12th Station of the Cross, from the old St. Agnes Convent, given by **James & Marie Walsh, Towanda**



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Family Legends can Become Real Stories by Researching at BCHS

by Matt Carl, BCHS Curator

BCHS has a wonderful card file that has developed over many years. The cards contain information such as births, deaths, and marriages that have been abstracted from Bradford County newspapers. Cards are added on a regular basis by BCHS volunteers.

Recently, while glancing at some new cards that were to be added, I noticed the death notice of my fourth-great grandfather, who, according to family legend, was gored to death by a vicious bull in the 1840's.

Upon locating the actual newspaper article, I discovered the real story, one that had been lost in the family years ago.

This illustrates why the BCHS research files are so important. They are constantly expanding! Why not try searching our files today?

WONDERING WHAT INFORMATION YOU CAN FIND IN OUR RESEARCH LIBRARY?



Visit our website!
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

WINTER MUSEUM HOURS:

Closed except for
group tours by prior appointment.

Do your Christmas shopping at BCHS!

BARCLAY MOUNTAIN - A HISTORY

by Bradford County Historical Society, 2007

\$40.00 Tax - \$2.40* Shipping - \$5.00

HISTORY OF BRADFORD COUNTY - 1891-1995

by Bradford County Historical Society, 1995

\$70.00 Tax - \$4.20* Shipping - \$6.00

FLEECE PULLOVER WITH THE BCHS LOGO

Available in sizes S, M, L, and XL

\$35.00 Tax - \$2.10* Shipping - \$10.00

* - PA residents only