

ON THE LAZY BENCH

Penn Brad Oil Museum strives to preserve the history of the Bradford Oil Field and the unique culture that developed along with it. The Museum also honors the people and their families whose lives contributed to making Bradford the "Highgrade Oil Metropolis of the World."

A Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 11 – No. 3 – Summer 2025

Derrick Day No Match for a Hot July

by Angela Nuzzo, Editor

Is it possible that weather can be TOO nice and so have a negative effect on an event? If so, I believe it may have happened to our Derrick Day celebration in July. A few of us were wondering why there seemed to be a much smaller crowd this year. It was sunny and hot, but the number of visitors was not as impressive as in years past.

Those who did join us enjoyed music by Ms. Hoshi's Trio on the porch of the pumper's house, lunch from Phatt Grady's, and a cool drink from Dale and Cindi Smith of Rock City Apple Press.



Becky Smith and Karen Emerson were handing out fun prizes at the hiking trail tent. Nancy Dryden was demonstrating tree-weaving. In the pumper's house, Isabelle Champlin, Julie Stacy, and Denise Piechnik, were sharing their basket weaving and candle dipping skills.



Tracy Burgess was roaming the grounds with Percy the pony (always a crowd pleaser). She also brought a pair of cute goats.



In the museum library, we had a tableful of 25 items for our silent auction, plus the 50/50 drawing.



Photo by
Francie
Long

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the event and to those who donated items for the auction.



PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

901 South Avenue - Bradford, PA 16701
Email: pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com
Website: penn-bradoilmuseum.org

Phone: 814-362-1955

Open:

Thurs. & Friday
9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday
9 AM to 2 PM

Admission Cost

Adults - \$6.00

Seniors - \$5.00

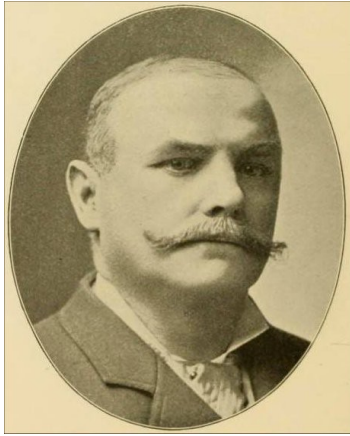
Children (under 12) - Free
Active Military / Family - Free



Samuel Gamble Bayne – Part 3

by Susan Gould

The continuing history of Samuel Gamble Bayne in Bradford, Pennsylvania, World Traveler, Oil Man, Oil Equipment Dealer, Banker, and Author



It was sometime in the early to mid-1870s when Samuel Gamble Bayne returned from his Asian journey to Bradford and found that the little town he had left had “indeed come down to business”. He wrote in a local newspaper, “From what I have seen and heard, I would not trade

a lease on the Bingham Estate at a quarter royalty for the combined oil right of India, Japan, and China.”

Samuel was happy with the reception he received when he returned to Bradford and was told there was a lot of work waiting for him. Remember, the first successful well was drilled by Job Moses in 1872. Previously the people in Bradford had been drilling down 500 to 600 feet and finding little or no oil. However, the 1872 well, which came in at 1,100 feet, taught prospective drillers that they needed to go deeper due to the higher hills in the Bradford area as opposed to Titusville. So, Samuel began to produce oil and soon he was able to supply his fellow oil operators with oil-producing equipment. One product he sold was the well-known Farrar and Trefl engine.

Samuel described his Bradford headquarters, which he named Power Hall, as a “majestic edifice with an eight-foot Corinthian front, a symbolic pipe-like form and extending back one hundred twenty feet.”¹ At these headquarters, Samuel worked on many undertakings. He never gave an address for Power Hall, but it still stands today, used now as an apartment building, and located at 43 Forman Street.

Samuel also wrote advertisements for the oil equipment he sold. The address he gave in his ads was 49 Main Street, the address of the Oil Exchange in Bradford. Samuel had a way with words, as exemplified in the following ad:

Power Hall

Still rears its Corinthian Columns and its early English front on the Oil Rialto.

Let those who yearn for The Best drop in!

The Portcullis Warders will receive them with respect.

We cut a new quill to engross these dazzling acts on Time's fleeting page.

S.G. Bayne, Bradford, Pa



Power Hall as it stands today

Samuel's ads impressed many people, including P.T. Barnum. Barnum offered him a yearly amount of money to write advertisements and bills for his “Greatest Show on Earth”. However, Samuel refused, stating that he needed his “wordsmith” talent in that area for his own business.

Another business venture that Samuel took on with much success was banking. He stated that he didn't really have an ambition to follow that career, but there were things occurring in the oil business, such as “wildcatting, schemes of mystery men, and rapid fluctuation of oil prices” that convinced Samuel he needed to do something. What he had in mind was to create a bank which would have “Oil Understanding, which would treat Oildom with tolerance and intelligence.” He had a substantial amount of capital from his oil operations and sales of oil producing equipment, so he used some of it to start a bank, The First National Bank of Bradford. The bank was opened in April 1880 with a capital of \$100,000 (worth \$3,167,137 in 2025). Samuel, as President, appointed his partner J. M. Fuller as Vice-President, and W. W. Bell, Cashier.

The bank had a great history, but rumormongers

were always ready to circulate reports to the contrary. Samuel saw this coming for his bank and sprang into action. He left quietly one night on a train and went to New York and Philadelphia, gathered funds and brought back to Bradford a large sum of money, all in \$5 bills. The next morning the run on the bank had started. Samuel and his clerks brought in Joseph Seep; Daniel O'Day, pipeline interests pioneer; and Captain J. J. Vandergrift, who was credited with being the first to make a commercial success of a pipeline.

Samuel Bayne stands out as a pioneer in the oil industry, a man who sincerely wanted his fellow oil operators to succeed. He was also concerned about Ireland, his native country, and used his funds to help them in the famine of 1879. His later life was filled with work, more traveling, and learning. He learned about and wrote a book on astronomy.

He and his wife Emily had one daughter, also named Emily, who married a man named Bossom. She and her son, Bruce, were killed in a plane crash in the UK in July 1932. Samuel Gamble Bayne died in 1921, a remarkable man of many accomplishments.

1 Samuel Bayne, Derricks of Destiny pg. 136

2 Ibid pg. 137

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Stan Pecora for the use of his historical library, and to Mike Fuoco for his knowledge of Bradford history, both of which were invaluable in the writing of this story.

This edition marks my 5-year anniversary as editor of On The Lazy Bench. I would just like to thank all of the people who work so hard on articles, send me photos, and help proofread. -Angela Nuzzo

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

photos by Brenda Fish, Board President

It was a beautiful day for a scramble at Pine Acres Golf Club! Sixty-two golfers spent an August morning on the greens for the museum's fundraiser honoring the late Dan Palmer.

Event Sponsors: ARG and Dallas Energy.

Hole Sponsors: McCracken Energy Services, Belser Hale, Derrick City Diner, E&M Engineers, Giardini Bros. Contruction, Jarrett Machine, JJ Saloon, J S Tax & Accounting, Pure Tech, Stephen Troisi CPA.

Thanks to all of the golfers, volunteers, sponsors, and Pine Acres, for making this event a success.



Return visitors will notice a new look to the Gift Shop thanks to the sweat of volunteers who maneuvered the player piano up the ramp and into its new home in the Pumper's House.

Photo by Marsha McCracken



Fireside Pumpers Talks in June, July, & August

by Isabelle Champlin, with photos by Joyce Cline

For our **June** talk, Rod Johnson and Ruth Mayes of the McKean County District Attorney's Detective Bureau spoke about their volunteer work with search and rescue dogs. Their specialty is man-trailing searches using dogs that need to smell recently worn articles of clothing that retain the unique signature odor of a person.



Different breeds have different innate abilities and although bloodhounds are known for superior odor detection, smaller dogs usually have better endurance, more agility, and longer life-spans. Training puppies starts at 9 weeks of age and modern techniques include keeping trained dogs inside a home rather than in a kennel. Thanks to cell phones and GPS locators, they reported that fewer hikers and hunters are getting lost.

In response to many questions, they explained that bloodhounds that are trained for tracking deer are not the ones useful for tracking humans. Also that they con-

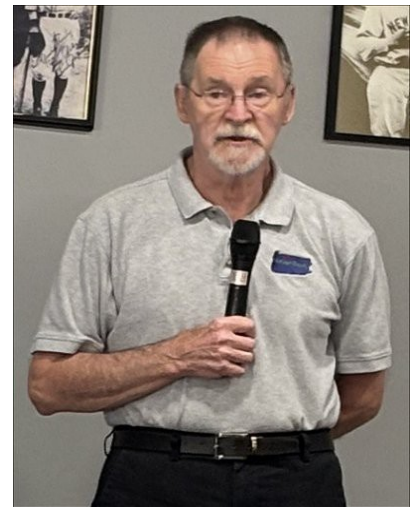
stantly upgrade the tick repellents that they use. They belied many misconceptions about the tracking abilities of dogs. Their dogs can track through crowds of thousands of people and through flowing creek beds, undeterred by cold or rainy weather, or cayenne pepper spread on a trail, or car exhaust in a traffic jam.

The highlight of their presentation was individually introducing three of their dogs, two bloodhounds, Roxie and Dixie, and a German Shorthaired Pointer named Oliver.

This program's sponsors were E&M Engineers & Surveyors and also Dresser Pipeline Solutions. If you or your company would like to donate to our local unit, please call the District Attorney's office at 814-887-3312, and specify that your contribution be sent to K9 Search and Rescue.



In **July**, Howard Drilling and Meredith Fesenmyer sponsored Bart Barton, president of the McKean County Historical Society, who related the museum's history



and recent projects.

Originally begun in 1902 and enhanced by Senator Lewis Emery's private collections, it was expanded when several other local historical societies were consolidated and then moved into the basement of the new courthouse in Smethport in 1942.



Since 1998, the museum has been housed behind the courthouse in the Old Jail built in 1875.

The Power Point presentation photos showed that repairs have been extensive and continuous on the old basement cells of the jailhouse. The latest renovations are in the sheriff's apartment, which include a 1953 GE refrigerator that still works.

The floors of the museum contain many displays, from the Civil War Bucktail regiment to depictions of the many rural school-

houses and country stores once found throughout the county.

There is a taxidermy mount of every type of mammal in the county, over 2000 Colgate wooden toys and other antique toys and tools, a passenger pigeon exhibit, and the smokestack retrieved from the wreck of the infamous Peg Leg Railroad, an early monorail. Outside, the museum has erected the top section of the 1925 Prospect Hill metal fire tower that ultimately became the tallest fire tower east of the Mississippi, at 82 feet. It includes a restored cabin with working map tables and a wheelchair ramp for access.

The nonprofit Old Jail Museum at 500 West Main Street in Smethport, PA, is seasonally open from April through October on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 pm, and also on Saturdays during the summer months of June, July, and August.

The speaker for **August** was Rowan Crisp, the Lumber Heritage Region's education and outreach administrator, based in Emporium. The LHR is Pennsylvania's largest 'heritage area' of which there are 12. Developed in 1989 to promote and develop the state's historic, scenic, and cultural resources, this particular heritage area is a whopping 4.2 million acres, covering 15 counties.



Rowan's Power Point talk illustrated the history of 'Penn's Woods' from prehistoric and Colonial times to the present, especially emphasizing the forest clearance of the 1800s when logging camps and sawmills became mechanized and railroads hauled timber and lumber from even remote mountain areas. The previous methods of small local companies using horse-drawn sledges and of floating logs and log-rafts down rivers gave way to very intensive, very efficient, very destructive techniques. The iron industry required more charcoal. The tanning industry made the bark of hemlocks far more valuable than hemlock lumber. Acid-wood plants became enormous. Oil drilling and transportation required many wooden derricks, oil barrels, and barges.

By the 1920s, forests had declined from 90% to 30%, creating the over-harvested 'Pennsylvania Desert' suffering from wildfires, erosion, and loss of wildlife like deer. The Great Depression of the 1930s saw the rise of the Civilian Conservation

Corps who planted trees, built fire roads, and created stone dams and recreation areas in national forests and parks. Pennsylvania had the 2nd oldest CCC Camp (in Duhring) and the 2nd highest number of these camps. The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum in Galeton has a reconstructed CCC cabin and a statue of a CCC worker.

The Penn-Brad Oil Museum has a LHT sign at our entrance, and we are #6 on their Lumber Heritage Trail.

<https://lumberheritage.org/explore-the-lumber-heritage-trail/>

Pennsylvania's forests today are sustainably managed and attractive for outdoor recreation and tourism.

We thank the sponsors for this month's program, Kan's Water Hauling and John McCool/Edward Oil Company.

Fireside Pumpers Breakfast

The Fireside Pumpers of the Penn Brad Oil Museum meet each 3rd Monday of the month for a breakfast meeting with a guest speaker, at the Derrick City Diner, 563 Derrick Road, Bradford. Attendees order off the menu beginning at 8am and the program starts at 8:30. The meetings are open to the public as an educational outreach and fundraising effort by the museum. If you or your business would like to sponsor a breakfast, please complete the form on our website or call the Treasurer at 814-368-6824. Sponsorship profits go toward museum improvements.

September 15, 2025

Brenda Fish

From Well to Market (ARG)

October 20, 2025

Bill Robertson

Pennsylvania Strange (book)

November 17, 2025

Francie Long

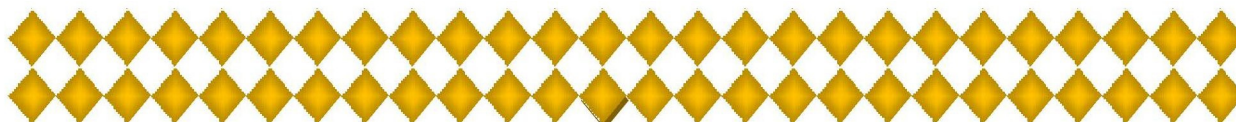
PBOM - The Year in Review

Penn Brad Oil Museum



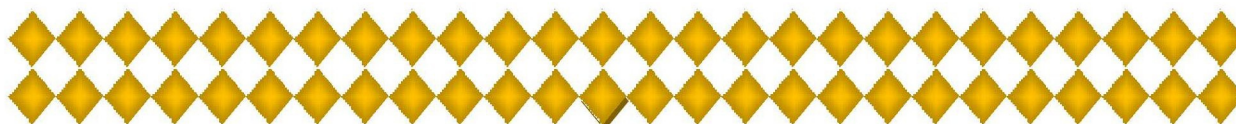
Yellow Dog Award Dinner

The Yellow Dog Award was instituted to recognize the leadership and dedication of those who help preserve the history of the Bradford Oil Field and the unique culture that developed along with it.



Honoring Mr. Harry Halloran, Jr.

**For his successful turnaround, operation & growth
of the local oil refinery and continued support of local
businesses through Halloran Philanthropies**



6 p.m., Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Mukiyama Room, Univ. of Pittsburgh @ Bradford, Bradford, PA

Board Of Directors

The Penn Brad Oil Museum Board of Directors is as follows:

Brenda Fish, President
 Fred Fesenmyer, Vice President
 Patty Lehosky, Recording Secretary
 Joyce Cline, Treasurer
 Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

Jeff Brewer William Pantuso
 Matt Kropf Stanley Pecora
 Chip McCracken Sherri Schulze
 Marsha McCracken Dale Smith

Julian L "Dooley" Popiel
Beloved Father
1921 - 2002

Leader & Mentor
Joseph A. Lehosky
1959 - 2022

Memorial & Honoring Gifts

In Memory Of: _____ **Given By:** _____
 Greg Bell Mike Nenno
 Marilyn Murphy Volchko The Benning Girls

Memorial & Honoring Bricks

In Memory Of: _____ **Placed By:** _____
 Julian L "Dooley" Popiel Patty Popiel Lehosky
 Joseph A Lehosky Patty Popiel Lehosky

Engraved personalized paving bricks can be purchased to surround the base of the flag pole. The bricks can honor people who have been involved in the oil industry or be used as a memorial to a deceased person. Bricks can also be purchased personally to show your support for the museum.



Remember or Honor a Loved One with a Gift to the Penn Brad Oil Museum

Memorials received after August 2 will appear in the next newsletter.

Memorials are available by calling 814-368-6824, or by mailing the coupon below to: Penn Brad Oil Museum, P.O. Box 163, Bradford, PA 16701. If ordering a brick, please call the number for more details or print out the order form available on our website. A notice will be sent to the recipient.

Penn Brad Oil Museum is a 501(c)(3) entity and all donations are tax deductible.

Clip and Mail Coupon

Memorial/Honoring Gifts	Check one: In Memory of _____	Name _____
	To Honor _____	
Amount Enclosed \$ _____	Send acknowledgment to:	
Donor's name _____	Name _____	
Donor's address _____	Address _____	

New Signage at the Museum

by Marsha McCracken

Our recently installed security cameras have shown that there are many visitors at the museum during the days the museum is closed. Board members Chip and Marsha McCracken reached out to local designer Heath Cousins of Cousins Designs to have some new signs created. The signs are highly visible and will assist visitors in knowing the hours of operation, along with the admission fees, before they begin the long walks from the parking lots to the front doors. Great job on the signs Cousins Designs!



Visit our Facebook page for more articles, photos, and updates. User name: Penn Brad Oil Museum.

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Bradford, PA 16701