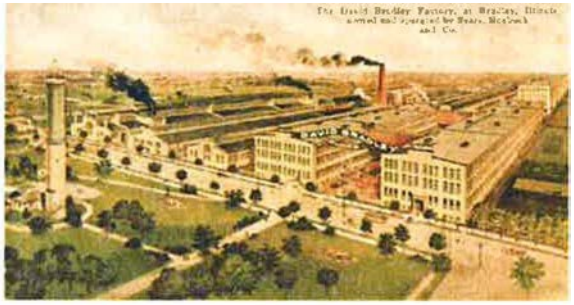
The mission of the Bradley Historical Society is to collect, record and preserve the cultural heritage of the village of Bradley and to memorialize the industrial workers of the 19th and 20th Century America.

Sign up today and become a member of the Bradley Historical Society. Help preserve the history of Bradley and its people. Fill out the form below and return it to the Bradley Historical Society, 147 S. Michigan Ave., Bradley, IL 60915.

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11:00am, at the Bradley Historical Society Museum, 428 W. Broadway. For further information, call 815-693-5444.

Bradley Historical Society

From its beginning as North Kankakee, later as Bradley, our village has been home to many small businesses, from one-chair barbershops and "mom-and-pop" grocery stores and taverns to three of the world's largest manufacturers of starch, furniture, appliances and farm and home implements.



Among our first citizens were wealthy entrepreneurs, enterprising businessmen and working men from all classes of society. The new factories of North Kankakee were built by carpenters, brick-layers and stonemasons from nearby communities and Chicago. Many remained in the village and took jobs in the factories. Other workers (some trained craftsmen), many of them immigrants from Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Poland, Bohemia and Slovenia, were drawn here by the prospects of factory jobs. They found their neighbors were descendants of an established French Canadian settlement (Bourbonnais); Irish, who had come to America as miners and quarry men and remained to build canals and railroads. There also was resident that potpourri of Anglo-Americans, descended from the area's pioneer settlers. These are the people and the times the Bradley Historical Society is chartered to preserve and memorialize.

Bradley Historical Society, 147 S. Michigan Ave.,
Bradley, IL 60915

Memberships: Family ($15yr) Life ($200)

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____E-mail_____

Return this portion along with your membership dues.