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Placentia Founders Society

The Green Shingle

News from the Bradford House

FALL 2022

Support from the Placentia Community Foundation Expands Education Efforts

We are extremely pleased to announce the renewed support of the Placentia Community Foundation (PCF) in their 2022-23 grant cycle. They have provided \$2000 to support our docent-led video tour project.

PYLUSD teachers, in their study of local history, will be able to utilize a series of 15 short videos describing Bradford House rooms and related topics posted on YouTube.

The PCF has assisted our educational program for five-years by making possible in-person student tours of the Bradford House. At first, the grants provided bus transportation for student groups. With the onset of social distancing we are very pleased to have their help in developing our video presentation.

We also are extremely grateful to our docents who donated their time to this process and to our volunteer videographer, Eric Holmgren. Through his efforts, we have been able to edit and post half of these videotapes. The remaining sessions will appear every few weeks.

On YouTube, the videos are available to the entire community. We hope you will access and “subscribe” to these free videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7u9I36jKVNOYjthnf4OqNg>



Eric Holmgren at work on the educational video supported by the Placentia Community Foundation grant.

Creative Talent and Dogged Devotion Shared with City

The person behind the camera seldom gets to be center stage. But it's finally time to put the spotlight on Eric Holmgren. His work on behalf of the Placentia Founders Society has been little recognized as he quietly breaks down the walls of quarantine restrictions and technical innovations.

In the following interview Eric shares some of his background and motivation. His volunteer time has been a great assist to the PFS board members as they move bravely into the digital world.

· *What made you decide to start this project?*

I had been making YouTube videos for several years as a hobby and I have been involved with a project highlighting local businesses for the Placentia Chamber of Commerce. This is how I met PFS President Tina Miraj and became a member of the PFS. When the pandemic hit, she had told me that the kids could no longer visit the Bradford House. I remembered how much my kids had enjoyed the field trip when they were in elementary school. We discussed options for doing a video tour. Nancy Murray scheduled the various docents for their room presentation filming. All the docents did a fantastic job telling the story of the Bradford House!

· *What has been the most frustrating aspect?*

While video is currently the best medium for this type of virtual tour and history telling, it doesn't convey the true feeling of being there in person. I did my best to ask questions and examine items like that of a typical visitor. But there are so many artifacts to explore in a 5-10 minute episode. There are lots of little details that couldn't be included. I guess I will need to return for more filming!

· *What has been most rewarding?*

Meeting the docents and working with Nancy and other members of the PFS board has been wonderful. The group is so enthusiastic and devoted to preserving our local history. I have a Master's degree

(cont. on pg. 2)

Creative Talent (cont. from first page)



Holmgren adjusts settings to record.

in history from CSUF, so it has been nice to use some of the skills I learned there in creating the videos. I am glad I can do my part as a member of the board to preserve and promote Placentia's history at the Bradford House!

· How many hours do you estimate you've already devoted to this project?

It has probably been over 100 hours at this point. The video interviews were the easy part and took the least amount of time. The editing is where most of my time has been spent. I am not a professional video guy; I teach archery and fencing. So it took me some time to create the style of the

video: which fonts and colors to use, what music to include, and how to have a consistent look. Even though I am not a professional, I still want each video to look good and be complete. I calculated that it takes about an hour of editing for every two minutes of finished video.

· If you had to be quarantined in one room of the house for ten days, where would you stay?

· My favorite room in the house is the dining room. The volunteers always do such a great job with the table settings. The room looks so elegant! It might not be very practical for a 10-day quarantine. I suppose I could sleep under the table!



Bradford House—been there, done that?

Not so! Thanks to our curator, Beth Woodard, there are many new items of interest that merit a *return visit*.

In the foyer, there now is a grandfather clock that was donated by Stephanie Dolan. We have it on good authority that there was always a clock in this location, and this gift helps us recreate that authentic setting. Likewise in the foyer, there's a new hat rack from Betty Jo Newall who also provided a large collection of Fostoria glassware, some additional early irons, and several kitchen items including a small glass butter churn and a very early metal lunchbox.

New to the kitchen, too, is a Hoosier cabinet that has been stored in our basement for several years. Often called simply a Hoosier since most were made in Indiana, the Hoosier State, these cabinets were popular in the early twentieth century for adding storage and counter space to small homes.

The dining room table currently features lovely pink-flowered "Jean" dishes by Homer Laughlin that were popular in the 1930s and 1940s.



Returning to the office exhibit thanks to repair work by Beth's husband, Rick Woodard, is the "bride's chair". Years ago when weddings were being performed at the Bradford House, then curator Jo Lyons knew that Wally Curl's hobby was needlepoint. She asked him if he could make a seat cover for a bride's chair to be used during weddings. This chair has been in the house ever since.



From

The President's Desk

By Tina Maraj



Greetings PFS Members and Community Friends,

Fall is here and we have been busy board members. We hosted a Victorian-themed photo booth at The Placentia Heritage Day Festival and our Docent and new Board Member, Chris Maule, rode in the parade. It

was a pleasant day having community members of all ages visit our booth and inquire about The Bradford House.

As we strive to continue to increase the awareness of PFS and grow the membership, we now also have an Instagram page called

PlacentiaFounders along with our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

If you are on social media, please "like" and "follow us".

Looking forward to seeing you at our annual Holiday Party.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for upcoming Bradford House events.

Nov. 13: Monthly tours, 2 & 3 p.m.

Dec. 4: Holiday Party

Dec. 11: Monthly tours, 2 & 3 p.m.

Jan. 8: Monthly tours, 2 & 3 p.m.

Feb. 12: Monthly tours, 2 & 3 p.m.

Feb. 19: Lecture, House with History, 2 p.m.



Oct. 8 Heritage Days at Tri-City Park

Irrigation Story Refreshed

When the last commercial orange grove in Placentia was replaced with houses, the Placentia Historical Committee had the opportunity to preserve some of the irrigation system from the Brower ranch. Pipes were relocated to a display along the sidewalk to Bradford House.

Over time, the exhibit took some abuse. A gate handle was broken and the sign explaining the irrigation system was damaged. The City of Placentia has recently restored the sign, and visitors can once again learn how vital water for orange groves came to the area.



Clockwise from top: Board members Chris Maule, Natalie Ter-Nedden, Wendy Elliott and Tina Maraj; Eric Holmgren and Tina; New member Christian Sales with Tina; Chris Maule in 1967 Chevrolet owned by Placentia resident Omar Torres.

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The Bradford House

The Placentia Founders Society was established in 1974 to preserve and maintain the Bradford House, which was built in 1902. Now it is a living museum, providing a glimpse into the lives of a pioneering family who made their fortune in the citrus industry. The House will open to the public for docent-led tours from 2-4 p.m. the second Sunday of each month, COVID precautions in place.

Placentia Founders Society 2022-23 Board

Officers

President—Tina Maraj
VP-Activities—*Open*
VP-Curator—Beth Woodard
VP-Education—Nancy Murray
Secretary—Stephanie Dolan
Treasurer—Carolyn Davis
Parliamentarian—Alice
Husovsky

Directors

Art Gallery—John Walcek
E-media—Eric Holmgren
Historian—Natalie Ter-Nedden
Maintenance—John Walcek
and Wendy Elliott
Member-at-large—Chris Maule
Membership—Judie Dee
Newsletter—Kathy Frazee

Membership Support

Thank you to our loyal members who have paid their dues for this fiscal year. We have had several Life members and we appreciate all who help in our mission to preserve our beautiful Bradford House.

Since the holidays will be here soon, a possible gift for the person who has

everything would be a gift membership in the Placentia Founders Society, especially Placentia residents who have not toured the house and would like to learn more about the history of our city! Please call me with any questions : 714-343-5695.

By Judie Dee, Membership chair

Include me/us on your membership list! My choice is circled below.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Individual, \$30

Senior (65+), \$20

Student (full-time), \$10

Family/Dual, \$50

Lifetime individual, \$500

Benefactor, \$75

Patron, \$125

Thank you! Your tax-deductible donation will help preserve the historic Bradford House for future generations.