



136 Palm Circle  
 Placentia, CA 92870  
 714-993-2470 thebradfordfordhouse.org

## Placentia Founders Society

# The Green Shingle

News from the Bradford House

WINTER 2023

## Treasures Found in Placentia



Placentia's 100th anniversary of incorporation is on the horizon. In over a century, a community can acquire many distinctive treasures.

In 1910, a small settlement blossomed when A. S. Bradford convinced the Santa Fe Railroad to extend its line here. Packing houses were built, and citrus shipped from Placentia was prized worldwide for its quality.

In 1919, Chapman Well #1 exploded and the town's population did likewise. Housing for oilfield and grove workers multiplied, businesses increased and police and fire departments were established. Then in 1926, Placentia became one of only nine incorporated cities in Orange County.

The Placentia Historical Committee will join with the Placentia Founders Society in presenting two panels on treasures from the city's past. The first will feature private and commercial structures from the earlier years and the second will introduce longtime residents, living treasures of the community. The presentations will be on two Sunday afternoons, Feb. 19 and March 26, at 2:00 p.m. in the Bradford House parlors.

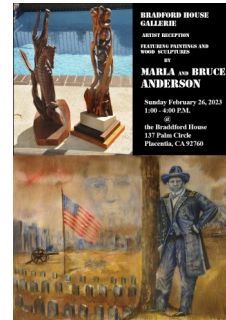
Notable structures built before the incorporation still survive and are

marked with bronze plaques from the Historical Committee. At the February presentation, committee member Dr. Lawrence de Graaf will explain the windshield survey that first brought these bygone structures to the city's attention. Some are still standing, but others have passed into oblivion. Photos of some of these lost sites and existing structures will be shared. A short explanation of the proposed Citywide Historic Preservation Plan will be presented by committee member Lisa Quental. A complete list of all twenty-five identified historical structures and sites will be available for a nominal donation.

Placentia's motto today is "The People Are the City". Similarly, its people are also its cherished living history. In March, individuals who grew up in the local farming economy, like PFS member Mary Castner, will share their memories of living and working on the ranches, going to businesses in town, and taking the bus to school. A second contributor has yet to be confirmed at the time of this writing.

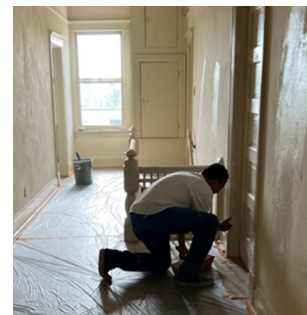
A question and answer period will follow both presentations. This will be a fine opportunity for third grade students to begin their study of Placentia's history and treasures.

## Bradford House Gallerie Returns



After a regrettable hiatus, the Founders Society is happy to revive the Sunday Gallerie. Marla Anderson, Placentia's past Director of Administrative Services, and her

husband Bruce will exhibit their paintings and wood sculptures at the long awaited Bradford House Gallerie on February 26. The public is invited to meet the artists and view their work from 1:00-4:00 p.m.



## Upkeep in This Old House

In the never-ending

quest to preserve and improve our beloved Bradford House, we recently had the upstairs hallway replastered and painted. We've discovered that some areas in the house haven't had much work done in over 45 years. This hallway project was preceded by plastering and repainting the back stairwell and will be followed by similar work in the downstairs bathroom.

## Special Tours This Fall

The Bradford House was pleased to welcome two very special tour groups during the Fall. In October we had a group from the Brea-Olinda Adult Transition Program (BOAT) that included their teacher, Mr. Weber, several aides, and about 15 students. Their interest in history and the lives of early settlers was very impressive. They had a deep appreciation of the age of items in the house.

In November, we hosted a Girl Scout reunion event for Troop 77 from the 1960's and 1970's. Not only had the ladies grown up in the area, but several of them had relatives who worked for Mr. Bradford. Judy Freitas Baker (middle, back row) and her family lived next door to the Bradford House in the orange grove called the "home ranch". She said her house was called "the little green house". Her father cared for a grove called "Yorba Ranch" but his main job was as an operator at West Coast Refinery, owned by Hartwell Bradford. She "loved being raised in an orange grove, the smell of the blossoms, walking barefoot in muddy irrigation ditches, and eating sweet juicy oranges." We thank these ladies for sharing their memories of the Bradford family and Tesoro ranch.



*Brea-Olinda Adult Transition Program Tours the Bradford House*



*Girl Scout Troop 77 Reunion visit to the Bradford House*

*(l-r) Donna Zila Barrios, Joan Collier, Judy Freitas Baker, Linda Collier Mahnken, Sue Brown, and (seated) Diana Jacobsen Jacobson.*

From

### The President's Desk

By Tina Maraj



Love Placentia "Day of Community Service" on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our board members will be leading different "clean up" projects in the house and on the grounds. If you would like to participate let us know.

In addition, if you have a little extra time we are looking for a few new board members to join us in July. Our nominating committee will be seeking nominees in April so please reach out if you would like to be considered.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you at an event soon.

Happy New Year PFS Members and Community Friends,

I'm happy to announce that even though we have had some severe winter weather, the Bradford House is structurally intact and has braved the storms. We do have several maintenance projects going on, as we usually do, including repairs to the downstairs bathroom and exterior painting project in the next few months.

The House will also be a location for the

## Quarterly Questions

1. How old will Placentia be in 2026?
2. William Bradford, father of A.S., was originally from what country?
3. Who will be showing their artwork in the February Gallerie?
4. Who will co-sponsor two local history panels with the PFS?

⌘

*Historical Committee  
and Bruce Anderson 4. Placentia  
1. 100 years 2. England 3. Marla*

## Finding His Roots: Biographical Discrepancy Found



Henry Louis Gates has made the study of family history famous. He amazes his guests on PBS television by revealing lost truths and untangling known mysteries.

PFS board member Wendy Elliot played the role of H. L. Gates and studied the background of A. S. Bradford. She verified some docent information but also provided a surprise of her own.

As the docents know, A.S. was born in Shapleigh, York County, Maine on 18 Aug 1860; his parents were William and Lucy (Thompson) Bradford. Two months before A.S. was born, his parents are listed in the federal census in Shapleigh. It shows that William Bradford age 31, farmed on land valued at \$300; he was born in England and his personal estate was valued at \$175. William's wife, Lucy A., was 20 years old and a native of Maine; they had a 2-year-old son, John M. born in Massachusetts.

A non-population schedule, dated 1 Jun 1860, shows that William farmed four acres of improved land and twelve acres unimproved with one "milch" cow and one sheep worth \$25. They produced fourteen pounds of wool that year.



Wendy added information on A.S.'s father, William Bradford in various other sources. In June 1863, William registered for the Civil War draft in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, York County, Maine under Capt. Charles H. Daughy, Provost Marshal.

Records show that William Bradford of Shapleigh, York County, Maine personally appeared and applied for U. S. citizenship at the Supreme Judicial court in nearby Alfred, York County, Maine on 11 Jun 1866. His application states that he was born at Stockley, Pomeroy, Devonshire County, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain in 1829 under allegiance to the King of Great Britain, Ireland, etc. He stated that he left Stockley on or about the 15 of May 1844

and on or about the 15 day of July 1844 arrived at Philadelphia, U.S. He denounced loyalty to Queen Victoria of Great Britain, Ireland, etc. and became a U.S. citizen on 11 Jun 1866. Other court records show he was naturalized on 1 Aug 1866. Witnesses were Simon Huntress and Caleb Thompson, both of Shapleigh, Maine.

Wendy located English records that show William Bradford listed in the 1841 census of England as being 10 years old with his approximate birth year as 1831—close to 1829. He was born in Devon County England and lived in Heavitree parish, Wonford hundred. The registration district was St. Thomas and the sub registration was Heavitree. His father was Isaac Bradford age 41 who worked as an agricultural laborer. All males in the home are listed, followed by the females: John age 12, William age 10, James age 2 months, Sarah age 41, Harriett age 16, and Charlotte age 12. Isaac was an agricultural laborer, so it can be assumed that his oldest sons helped in that endeavor.

Since the citizenship papers show that William left England in 1844, this indicates that he was about 14 years old when he left for the United States.

In June 1870, the federal census shows that William was a shoemaker; he and "Abby" lived adjacent to Caleb Thompson. Their household included four children all born in Maine: Wm E born 1858, Asa S born 1860, Lorenzo born 1865, and Lottie P born 1868. When the next federal census was taken on 25 Jun 1880, the family farmed in Shapleigh and included William and Lucy with five sons and a daughter all born in Maine: William D age 22, Albert S age 19, Ezra C age 17, "Loring" age 15, Lettie T age 12, and Irvine T age 9. The four youngest children attended school.

Here is the issue Wendy uncovered. The docent script says that A.S. left his home to work in agriculture at the age of 14, but clearly this is not the case if he was listed living on William's farm when he was 19. In retelling family stories, it is not unusual



### Reminder: the Bradford House Tour Is Online

Different docents guide from the outside of the house to individual rooms, the basement, and the attic. Watch for just five minutes or spend the afternoon learning about the home and times of A. S. Bradford.

Click here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7u9I36jKVNOYjthnf4OqNg> or go to the Placentia Founders Society Facebook page or search "Placentia History" on YouTube. Please *subscribe* to improve our access and receive updates.

Our sincere thanks go to the Placentia Community Foundation for their financial support of this virtual tour project.

for names and dates to get mixed up and we're glad to have written records to verify information.

But even information written in stone can prove troublesome. William Bradford died in 1880 according to a headstone in the Thompson Family Cemetery in Shapleigh. However, another Shapleigh record shows "William Bradford, age 50, born in 1833, died 5 June 1883, buried 1883 in Thompson, Lot 2 in Shapleigh York County." The card also lists his wife: Lucy A. (Thompson) who died 30 Jun 1919 which seems to verify this is our William Bradford. So, attention to detail is important to avoid confusion in the future.

*Wendy Elliott, PhD is internationally known among genealogists. She has documented her own roots and those for celebrities in U.S., U.K., German, and Holland/Belgium archives.*

# Remembering Christmas Past ~



*From setting up the decorations . . .*



*To meeting Santa and guests by the tree . . .*



*Placentia Founders Society enjoyed the season.*

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for upcoming Bradford House events.

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

Feb. 19: Lecture, Centennial Houses, 2 p.m.

Feb. 26: Gallerie, Artist reception, 1-4 p.m.

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

Mar. 26: Lecture, Stories from Living Treasures, 2 p.m.

## Placentia Founders Society

The Bradford House  
136 Palm Circle  
Placentia, CA 92870  
Phone: 714-993-2470  
E-mail: bradfordhse@yahoo.com  
www.thebradfordhouse.org



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.

**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.*