



Placentia Founders Society

The Green Shingle

News from the Bradford House

November 2023

Major Tabulation of Artifacts Done

After three months, the complete inventory of items in the Bradford House is nearly finished. Every chair, blanket, rug, dress, spoon, napkin, glass, plate, and hairpin has been accounted for and only the data register needs finalizing. Working with previous inventory lists to make sure new items were included, "missing" items were found, and relocated items are listed in their current room. Chris Maule, Kathy Frazee, Kim Deweese, Natalie Ter-Nedden and Nancy Murray have worked under the direction of Beth Woodard for a total of over 250 hours on this important and fascinating project. Watch for future events at the House that will feature special items rediscovered in this process.



The Bradford House is Placentia Heritage

The Placentia Founders Society/The Bradford House was pleased to again participate in Placentia Heritage Days on October 14th. After all, the Bradford House is a big part of the heritage of the City of Placentia. PFS Board member Chris Maule and youth representative Angelica Ter-Nedden rode in the parade in a 1953 yellow Buick convertible owned by Sid Munger and driven by his son-in-law and daughter, Rod and Alison Boaz, who are residents. As Chris stated, "It was lovely hearing people shout that they loved the Bradford House as we passed by." We also enjoyed talking to residents about the Bradford House at our booth at Tri-City Park. So many people shared wonderful memories of the Bradford family, of touring the house as a child, or of attending an event at the house. Thanks to Wendy Elliott, Vice President of Activities, for arranging for the parade car and for making sure our booth was well staffed all day.

Special Key Ranch Collaboration

In August, the PFS joined OC Parks and OC Historical Commission at George Key Ranch Historic Park for the inaugural Summer Citrus Harvest event. Serving as a local educational partner, Bradford House representatives shared local history information and encouraged visitors to take advantage of tours inside the ranch house being led by descendants of George Key. There were also live music performances, blacksmith demonstration and hands-on crafts for kids. The site was closed for several years for post-earthquake retrofitting. The historic home and museum, Verse Garden and orange grove are now open regularly on Saturdays.

A Bradford Visits the Bradford House

We were honored to have a visit from Irene (Rene) Bradford Kamin and her CHOC Littlest Angel Guild on October 25th. Rene is the granddaughter of A.S. Bradford and daughter of Hartwell Bradford. It is a joy to tour with her as she provides fantastic first-hand stories about the family and the house. Thank you, Rene, for your sharing your wonderful memories and for always supporting our efforts to preserve this house and museum.



The Haunt Returns to the Bradford House

Many Placentia residents remember the old Haunted House in the Bradford House basement which was an October staple for many years but which had to be discontinued due to fire safety concerns. Well, never fear, we figured out a way to continue with a new, altered Halloween celebration. Under the direction of President Eric Holmgren and Vice President of Activities Wendy Elliott, we had a “spooky-good-time” on Saturday, October 28th with well over 150 visitors.

The free event was designed for children 6 to 12 years and entailed using the Bradford House porch and many of the seven doors. The children and parents entered our decorated walk-around-porch and Trick or Treated at three doors while viewing projected and real Halloween scenes. They then proceeded around the house to Trick or Treat at several additional doors, viewing a “graveyard” and some “creatures” along the way. An eerie-good-time was had by all, the children and our volunteers. We hope to make this a yearly tradition.



Significant Archival Newspaper Resource Discovered

The inventory project that lasted over several months concluded with a most outstanding find in the curator's closet at the top of the steps. A hefty, white, 2.75-inch, 3-ring binder contains 208 pages printed from microfiche copies of the *Anaheim Gazette*. Each page has a reference to A. S. Bradford or a member of his family that describes their role in the Placentia community from 1892 to 1926. There are three indices to the material: one in chronological order, one sorted by the person's name, and one sorted by civic interests. There is a fourth index, compiled and typed by local historian Virginia L. Carpenter, whose content was used to locate the articles now preserved in the notebook. Newspaper format was different. It seems to be more a collection of listings, descriptions and gossip all strung along the columns. This format must have been dizzying for Carpenter to plow through to find anything about the Bradford family. There are also advertisements for all sorts of businesses. According to the introduction, “This book was put together by Natalie D. Beam, student of San Jose State University, Masters of Library and Information Science. It was created for the use of the Bradford House and Placentia Founders Society to be used as a resource for research.”

Future issues of “The Green Shingle” will be able to have articles dealing with agricultural business be it cabbages, oranges or walnuts; school board, water district and bank board elections; and, of course, various aspects of the social scene, including travel, parties and funerals. Here are the first two random samples. “Mr. Bradford writes from Placentia to take his nursery ad. out, because he has sold all his trees. Now, isn't Bradford the most exasperating man you ever saw!” “Mr. Bradford and family of Placentia went to Long Beach on Tuesday, to remain for an outing for a week or ten days. Mr. Bradford's little child fell out of the doorstep and bruised itself about the face severely, but the little chap was all smiles on Tuesday when starting for the seashore.”

A Message From the President

The Halloween Haunt was a great success! We had about 200 visitors! The project and planning have been rather daunting, but there have been many wonderful people who have stepped forward to help. Our Halloween event committee volunteers were John, Carolyn, Natalie, and Wendy. My mother Eve, my sister Christina, and my sister-in-law Debbie were some of the first folks I contacted to help with decorating ideas and volunteers (including my brother John and two of my nephews, Jackson and Chase).

To help cover the costs of the event, I tapped several of my contacts at the Placentia Chamber of Commerce for donations. Special thanks to our sponsors; Yorba Linda Neighbors Magazine, OC Local Magazine, Face Painting by Tiffany, TS Home Design Center, Costco, and Gryphon Archery & Fencing Club. Thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors! This will become a regular event the Bradford House shares with the community.



Thanks for Community Support

Thanks to the many anonymous friends who donated to the e-waste fundraiser. Your help is much appreciated by Placentia Founders Society in our efforts to maintain the Bradford House.

Would supporter Betty Solesbee please contact curator Beth Woodard at Bradford House? She would like to get more information on your gift. You can leave your contact details at the BH phone number.

Thanks to every one of the 112 individuals, families, and businesses who have renewed their membership for the Placentia Founders Society. We look forward to gathering with you over the upcoming holidays.



Congratulations to longtime PFS historian, Pat Graham on her 90th birthday in October. The books you have so lovingly created are a prime source of our history.

Placentia Founders Society
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Upcoming Events:

- Nov 12, Monthly Tour, 2 & 3 pm
- Dec 3, Holiday Party, 4:30-7pm
- Dec 10, Monthly Tour, 2 & 3 pm
- Jan 14, Monthly Tour, 2 & 3 pm

2023-2024

Placentia Founders Society Board

OFFICERS

- President—Eric Holmgren
- VP-Activities—Wendy Elliott
- VP-Curator—Beth Woodard
- VP-Education—Nancy Murray
- Secretary—Stephanie Dolan
- Treasurer—Carolyn Davis
- Parliamentarian—Alice Husovsky

DIRECTORS

- Art Gallery—John Walcek
- E-media—Vacant
- Historian—Natalie Ter-Nedden
- Maintenance—John Walcek
- Members-At-Large—Chris Maule, Bob Robinson, Kim Deweese
- 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.

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Individual \$30

Senior (65+) \$20

Student (full-time) \$10

Family/Dual \$50

Benefactor \$75

Patron \$125

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

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.