



Bradford Family History

In 1860, James Bascom Bradford arrived in Sacramento and claimed 160 acres in an area 20 miles south of Sacramento, referred to as "Bradford Home Place." James married Sarah Kilbourne in 1871 and was an active member of the Elk Grove Masonic Lodge No. 173, F. and A.M.

James began ranching on his land and set aside 15 acres for vineyards. He gradually worked his way into viticulture and eventually became one of the largest and most widely known viticulturists in Sacramento County. James began maintaining a winery named J.B. Bradford and Sons in 1889, becoming one of the first vineyards/winery in the entire south county. The size of the winery was so large that a railroad spur from the Western Pacific tracks ran to the ranch. By 1897, the Bradford winery was capable of producing 400,000 gallons of wine.

After James Bradford's death in 1907, his sons George and Perley continued to enlarge and improve the winery. During prohibition, the brothers turned to cattle-raising, bean growing and general farming, all while maintaining the maximum productivity of their original 140-acre vineyard. Together, George and Perley owned thousands of acres in Sacramento and various other counties. George Bradford married Birdie Ruby Lenz in 1905. Birdie was a member of the Elk Grove chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.) and served in all offices of the order. She was also a member of the Friday Club of Elk Grove. Perley Bradford was elected as a supervisor for Sacramento County in 1912 and was instrumental in facilitating the building of a concrete road from Thornton to Franklin.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.