



The Mansion

Our Mission:

The Bidwell Mansion Association is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and interpretation of Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

Newsletter of the Bidwell Mansion Association

FALL 2020

Christmas with the Bidwells 2020

Grab a plate of Christmas cookies and a cup of eggnog or sparkling cider and sit down at your computer to enjoy “Christmas with the Bidwells” this year. Travel back in time to talk to four residents of Bidwell Mansion as they prepare for the holiday season.

General John Bidwell will give you a tour of his office and tell you about the time he met General Sherman. Annie Bidwell is going shopping in downtown Chico – find out which stores she prefers for buying Christmas gifts. Florence the cook is in the kitchen, preparing a delicious dinner, and Peter the coachman is out at the carriage house getting ready to give you a ride around Rancho Chico. All of them will welcome you to Bidwell Mansion and fill you with the holiday spirit.

Bidwell Mansion comes alive in these vignettes, accompanied by holiday music from the parlor. The videos will be available December 18th on the Bidwell Mansion Association’s new YouTube channel <https://tinyurl.com/bmayoutube>. We hope you will tune in and enjoy a new version of “Christmas with the Bidwells.”

Christmas
with the **Bidwells**
Bidwell Mansion Association
Holiday Party

VIRTUAL!

Holiday Video Release
Friday, December 18, 2020 / 6pm PST
available on YouTube: “Bidwell Mansion Association”

Historic Vignettes / Parlor Music / Holiday Cheer

This video is released free to our community in thanks for their support of the Mansion.

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park News

Contributed by Terri L. Lopez, Program Manager for Interpretation and Education

State Park Report

I think we can all agree we have seen many days in which we have had to adjust or adapt to the unexpected changes that have become our way of living. Our endurance continues to be challenged as we rely on our inner strength not to falter. Our reliance on one another grows, our need to be among others grow and the desire to once again enjoy being in nature calls to us.

Through these months, the staff at Bidwell Mansion SHP have been ensuring the park is cared for. They have continued to provide their services and worked through the constraints that have been directed under the pandemic, as well as jump in under new challenges when they were called upon to provide assistance and support to evacuate other park units to the latest fires that had threatened the surrounding communities.

The question now -What happens from here? The management of the park: employee recruitment and supervision; maintenance of the infrastructure and park grounds; resource protection; visitor education and community engagement all continues to strengthen and grow. Though we are not able to provide all of the visitor services that we have seen before, we are continuously moving forward in preparation when we are able to. At this time, the Visitor Center and Mansion remain closed.



Farewell Raeann Bossarte

The Northern Buttes District staff came together for a drop in affair to celebrate in Raeann Bossarte's retirement on October 29th. For those who could not be present, a virtual online event was taking place at the same time for fellow interpreter colleagues, friends and co-workers to share their best wishes in her new adventures ahead. She is already missed.

Raeann contributed unconditionally and dedicated her time to ensuring all the visitors to Bidwell Mansion from 2013-2020 enjoyed the cultural experience and fostered a new understanding to the significance of the Bidwell family and the region. Once more let us extend our utmost appreciation to her extraordinary efforts and wish her all the very best in her new journey of retirement.

The exciting announcement is the interpretive staff will soon be providing educational programs from an online platform to students around the state. The interpretive team have been undertaking many hours of training to learn the new process of providing the interpretive programs on a digital medium and to support the teachers/educators on receiving all the resources to provide a comprehensive educational package. Be sure to stay connected through the park's social media sites to see the announcements.

Between serving as the Cooperating Association Liaison (CAL) and being the Northern Buttes District Program Manager for the Interpretation and Education, I have a lot of enthusiasm and I am very optimistic that our partnership with the park's Interpretive Association is only going to grow in strength. This developing collaboration between us will enable opportunities in the interpretive and educational programming to be offered at the park.

As I view the blue skies and finally feel our fall season has arrived, I find we are going to see many Wonderful things yet to come.

Terri Lopez
Program Manager for
Interpretation and Education
Northern Butte District

Chico State - METX Update

Scanning of the Mansion started this Fall as the first collaboration of the Bidwell Mansion SHP with Chico State curriculum METX as reported in the BMA May Newsletter. This scan of the Mansion's First Floor will be stitched together with other scans and then converted into a 3D model of each room and floor of the Mansion and will be used by the department for historic preservation and for access to educational virtual reality programs and tours of the Mansion.



President's Message

Greetings and Happy Fall,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. While Bidwell Mansion SHP is still temporarily closed due to COVID, the BMA Board has been working behind the scenes to plan a few upcoming virtual events for our members and friends to enjoy. State Parks interpretive staff have also been working hard transitioning their educational programs to the virtual world, making them more accessible to online learning and outreach, not only statewide, but nationwide. Go team!

Typically at this time we would be gearing up for our annual **Christmas with the Bidwells** event in December. However, as we cannot host a live event at the Mansion, we will be filming a series of short vignettes that will be available on the BMA YouTube channel starting December 18th. This will be a free, fun, yet different approach to our usual event, but one we hope you will enjoy. For more information, check out the article in this newsletter, go to www.bidwellmansionassociation.com or to our new YouTube Channel at <https://tinyurl.com/bmayoutube>.

We will also be hosting our annual **Members Meeting** in January via Zoom with guest speaker Andy Mark. More details will be posted on our website and in the January newsletter.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish Raeann Bossarte, Park Interpreter I, and Gretchen Vanderwalle, State Historic Park volunteer a very happy retirement and thank them for their hard work and support of Bidwell Mansion and the BMA. Their time, talent, and expertise over the years have been greatly valued, and it has been a pleasure getting to know and working with both of them. Congratulations Raeann and Gretchen—we wish you both all the best!

Thank you members and friends for your support of BMA. Because of your membership and donations, we are still able to support education and interpretation at the Mansion even while it's closed. If you would like to renew your membership or make a donation, please complete the form included in this newsletter or go to www.bidwellmansionassociation.com/bma-membership. Thank you!

I hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday Season. And don't forget to join us virtually in December!



Adrienne Glatz,
BMA Board President



Give the Gift of Membership this Holiday Season

Thank you for your membership in the BMA. Please consider gifting a 2021 BMA membership to friends or family.

Membership is a way to help our efforts in supporting education and interpretation at our wonderful Bidwell Mansion and to keep the community – young and old – involved with the past. A perfect gift!

Please complete the form included in this newsletter, or renew online at:
www.bidwellmansionassociation.com/bma-membership. Please mention that it is a gift.



Interested in Serving on the BMA Board?

The Board of Directors is currently recruiting for potential new members to serve on the Board starting in January 2021. If you want to become more involved with BMA and Bidwell Mansion SHP, and have an interest in Chico history and community enrichment, then we would like to encourage you to consider joining the Board.

The Board of Directors is made up of dedicated community members who are committed to the restoration, preservation, education, and interpretation of Bidwell Mansion SHP.

If you are interested in learning more about the Board and how you can participate, please email bidwellmansionassociation@gmail.com or go to www.bidwellmansionassociation.com/about.

Bidwell Mansion Association
P. O. Box 1303
Chico, California 95927

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Join Today!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BIDWELL MANSION ASSOCIATION

Memberships are due each January. Please help us restore, preserve and interpret at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

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|---------------------|------------------|-------|
| | Student/Retired: | \$10 |
| Send Membership to: | Individual: | \$20 |
| BMA | Family: | \$35 |
| P.O. Box 1303 | Sustaining: | \$50 |
| Chico, CA 95927 | Patron: | \$75 |
| | Life: | \$300 |

Keep in touch with Bidwell Mansion

BMA website:
www.bidwellmansionassociation.com

E-mail:
info.bidwellmansionassociation@gmail.com

BMSHP website:
bidwellmansionpark.com/

Goldfields: A blog about Life and History in Northern California
<https://goldfieldsbooks.com/>

