



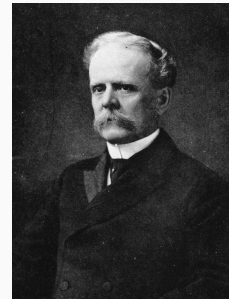
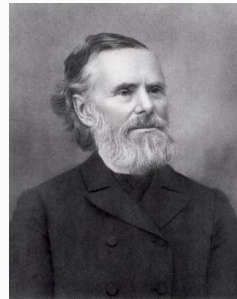
# Cornelia Foster Bradford

A Legacy of Public Service

*“We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers”*

*Cornelia F. Bradford*  
(1847 - 1935)

# The Bradford Legacy of Public Service



**Rev. Amory Howe Bradford (1846 - 1911)**

- Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Montclair, New Jersey
- President of the Board of Directors and sponsor of the Whittier House
- Noted author and neoabolitionist

**Governor William Bradford (1590-1657)**

- Arrived on the Mayflower
- Governor of Plymouth, serving 5 times over a period of 30 years
- Wrote *Of Plymouth Plantation*

**Rev. Benjamin F. Bradford (1820 - 1902)**

- Minister
- Abolitionist
- Member of the Underground Railroad
- Advocate for Women's Rights and Prohibition



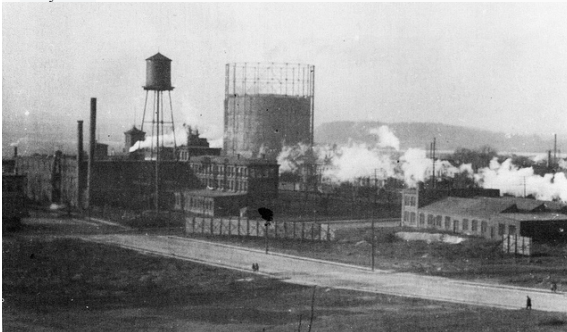
**Cornelia F. Bradford (1847-1935)**

- Social Worker
- Teacher
- Founder of the Whittier House Social Settlement and the first free kindergarten in Jersey City
- Advocate for Children's Rights and Social Reform
- First woman to serve on the Jersey City Board of Education (appointed in 1912)

## Jersey City at the end of the 19th Century



Jersey City, Morris Canal in 1903 (Little Basin of 1828) from the American Sugar Company refinery roof looking east to the Hudson River and Lower Manhattan Skyline in New York. © Andy Blair



Broadway, near West Side Avenue, 1900 © Andy Blair

*“[Jersey City] is one of the gateways which leads from the old world into the new.”*

**Cornelia F. Bradford**

- Paulus Hook first attracted notice as a possible site for urban development in the early part of the 19th century.
- Jersey City's immigrants continued to grow in number and percentage of population. Jersey City became a city of immigrants.
- Poles, Russians, Swedes, Italians, English, Irish, Scotch, and lesser numbers of other immigrant groups came to dominate the area.
- Colgate soap factory, Leo's box factory, Lorillard's snuff factory, Dixon pencil plant and other smaller factories abounded and provided employment for men, women and children.



Morris Canal in Jersey City looking southeast from the sugar refinery roof to New York harbor. Coal bins and industry. Central Railroad of New Jersey in the background. 1903 © Andy Blair



Immigrants at Ellis Island (Source : Daily Mail)



## Child Labor in USA in 19th Century



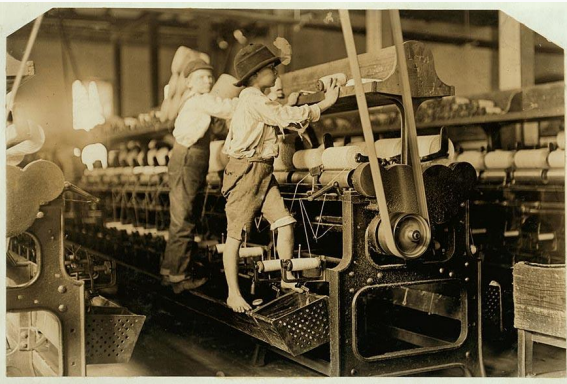
Pennsylvania Breakers, South Pittston, PA



3-Year-Old girl accompanying her mother at Ivey Mill, Hickory, NC



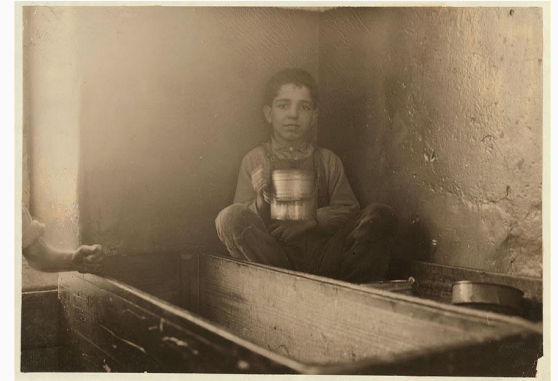
Newspaper selling boys, Jersey City, NJ



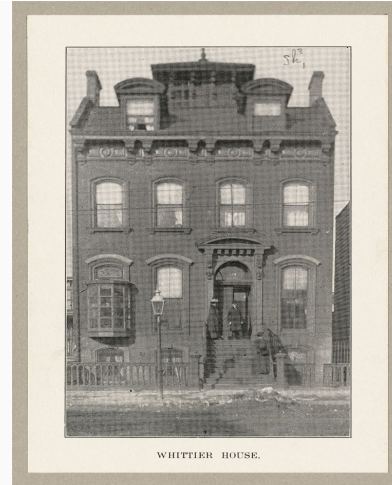
Spinning Frame of Bib Mill No. 1, Macon, GA

Photos by Lewis Hine (Source: National Library of Congress)

- Cornelia Bradford leads an investigation into the working conditions of children.
- Leads to formation of the Child Protective League and a comprehensive child labor bill.



5-Year-Old Jo on a workday lunch break, Fall River, MA



“A good kindergarten, with an earnest teacher and with its variety of work and play, is today the great ethical instructor of children. Take a young child from a wretched home, place him in a kindergarten,..in three or four years habits are formed which time cannot efface.”

“I pick my workers from those who have had the best advantages in order that they may give to other hungry hearts and minds the benefits of such advantages.”

- **Cornelia F. Bradford**

The Whittier House (est. 1894) : Social Settlement & First Free Kindergarten



## CLUBS & EXTRACURRICULARS:

“There will be CLUBS for for men, boys, and girls, and mothers’ teas and lessons along educational lines will be given to girls who desire to take them. We will have classes in dancing and in the gymnasium.”

**Cornelia F. Bradford**

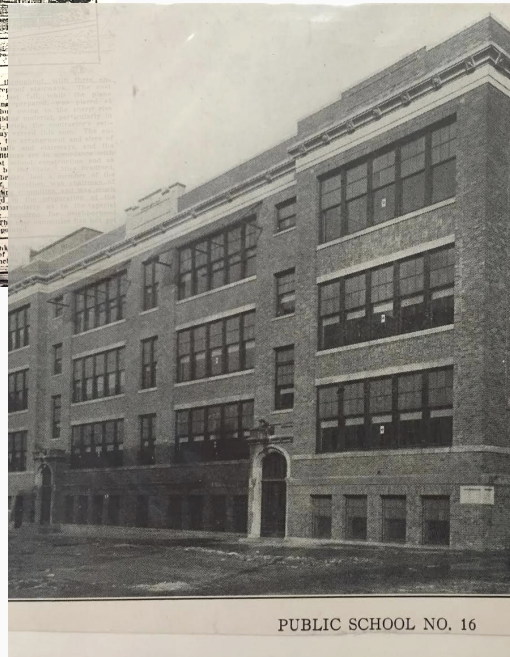
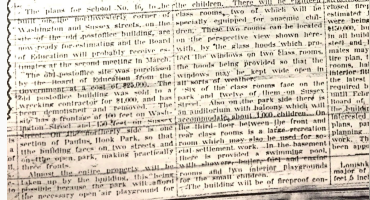


PAST: Whittier House Cooking Class



PRESENT: PS16 Creative Movement Workshop

Two Class Rooms Especially Equipped for Anaemic Children. One of the Features—Swimming Pool. With Showers in the Basement—Two Interior Playgrounds.



“Jersey City’s latest acquisition to its public school system, the new-old No. 16, at Washington and Sussex streets - they say it will, however, always be known as the “Bradford School”, in honor of the venerable lady who had devoted so many years of her life as a member of the Board of Education to its welfare .... Old No. 16 was reborn.”

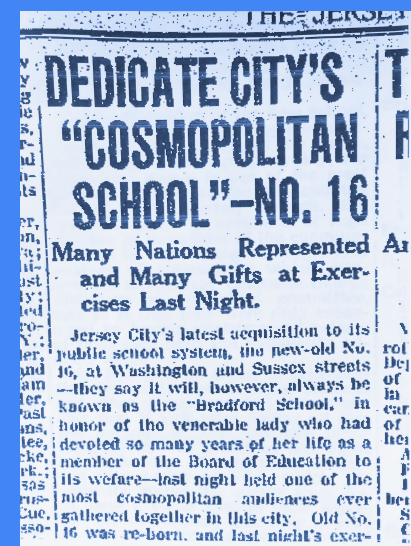
*The Jersey Journal*, February 16, 1918



From the *The Jersey Journal*, February 16, 1918:

“Last night [PS16] held one of the most cosmopolitan audiences ever gathered together in this city. Old No. 16 was re-born, and last night’s exercises dedicated it to the instruction of the youngsters of old Paulus Hook,.. and their children for probably many generations. [...] No. 16 begins its career of rejuvenation unusually rich in flags...”

**A CENTURY OF DIVERSITY : Today PS16 is home to 70 nations!**





## Service, Self- Sacrifice & Planting a Seed for Future Generations:

- “Head Worker” as she signed herself, Cornelia F. Bradford **desired no reward save that of an approving conscience**
- A brave and noble woman who was **willing to give her life** to the elevation of the poor, to help them in practical ways
- A **conscientious and self-sacrificing** woman
- **Earnest and intelligent** young woman who has devoted her her life to the poor, and is working to elevate and help them, has been able to do much good in Jersey City
- Endeavored to unite college girl and factory girl, university man and workingman in perfect sympathy
- Believed that the children of the poor have high aspirations for their future



“We seek to elevate and not to pauperize.”  
Cornelia F. Bradford