

Cornelia Foster Bradford

A Legacy of Public Service

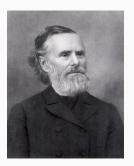
"We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers"

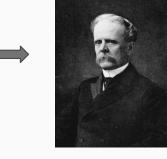
Cornelia F. Bradford (1847 - 1935)

The Bradford Legacy of Public Service







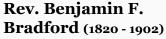




- Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Montclair, New Jersey
- President of the Board of Directors and sponsor of the Whittier House
- Noted author and neoabolitionist

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



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



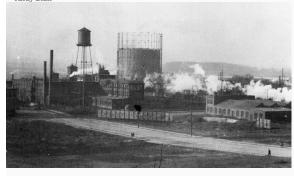
Cornelia F. Bradford (1847-1935)

- 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 refinary 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



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



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

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.



Newspaper selling boys, Jersey City, NJ



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."

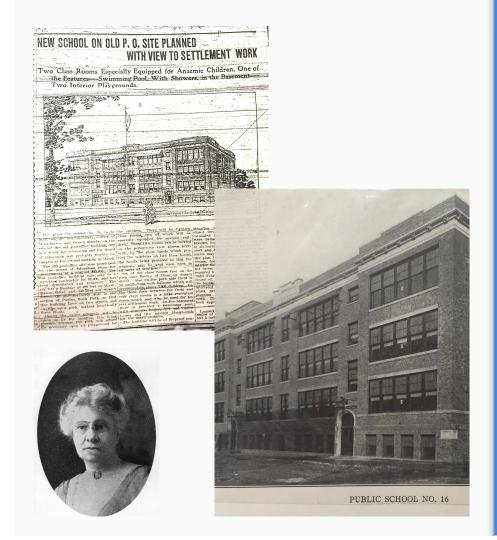
Cornelia F. Bradford



PAST: Whittier House Cooking Class



PRESENT: PS16 Creative Movement Workshop



Public School No. 16 - the "Bradford School"

"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!

Many Nations Represented Ar and Many Gifts at Exercises Last Night.

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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

THE JERSEY JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1968

Meeting People's Needs

Cornelia Bradford Had a Dream

By J. OWEN GRUNDY Secretary, Historical Society of Hudson County

It is now simply a Boys' club, affiliated with the Boys' Clubs of America, but when it started back on Dec. 22, 1893, when Cornelia Bradford first came to Jersey City, her dream was to found a settlement house. When she retired 32 years later, her dream had come true.

Whittier House, 174-178 Grand St., was at the zenith of its success. It was one of the most successful and best known in the United States.

The social settlement idea goes back to 1884, when Samuel Barnett founded Toynbee Hall in London. The concept was a challenge to the Industrial Revolution, which had wrought serious changes in urban life, notably slum conditions.

BARNETT and the early proponents of the new idea conceived of a house or several buildings, constituting a "settlement" in the center of the



CORNELIA F. BRADFORD

beginning of Whittier House, which now celebrates its own her part of the city. 75th anniversary of ceaseless and monumental service to Jersey City and the whole State Washington and Sussex Streets of New Jersey.

with the result that the first State Tenement House Commission came into existence.

Periodic inspections were instituted. Various reforms went into effect. A neighborhood council was formed, where residents met regularly to discuss the needs of Jersey City, resident workers at Whittier House made studies of mercantile conditions in Paterson and other communities. The library at Whittier House provided a place for the poor children of the neighborhood to do their homework and stimulated good reading habits among their elders. Classes in English and civics were held to

ALWAYS A firm believer in public education, Miss Bradford led the successful movement for building a new public school in

THE NORTHEAST corner of was selected. Here the new

"We seek to elevate and not to pauperize." Cornelia F. Bradford