



Vol. 121 | No. 11  
18 November 2016

# Lydia Moss Bradley

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# William Rainey Harper

## Lending a hand in Bradley's foundation

BY AUSTIN SHONE  
Assistant Sports Editor

William Rainey Harper, the man behind the name of Bradley's Harper Residence Hall, was born in New Concord, Ohio, in 1856. From a

young age, it was clear Harper was bright. He could read at age three and developed a natural knack for languages. He couldn't enroll at Yale until he turned 17, but the wait was worth it - Harper earned a doctorate at the ripe age of 19.

After earning his Ph.D., he married his long-time girlfriend Ella Paul, with whom he had three sons. Harper moved to Chicago, where he taught at Morgan Park Seminar for six years. He absolutely loved teaching and preferred to be called "Mr. Harper" rather than "Dr. Harper." He was a clean-shaven, stocky man who lived each day by a strict schedule and a Christian who embraced all people. In 1886, Harper returned to New Haven to be a professor of languages at his alma mater. At Yale, he taught courses in Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

In 1891, John D. Rockefeller selected Harper to help organize the University of Chicago.

At 35, Harper was the guiding force behind the university and was the visionary of its founding. While in Illinois, he quickly became friends with Lydia Moss Bradley, who was looking to found a school of her own and needed advice.



Lydia originally wanted the school to be established after her death, but it was Harper who convinced her to charter the school before-hand so she could have the privilege of seeing it grow. Harper suggested making Bradley a two-year school that fed into the University of Chicago, but Lydia was set on making it a four-year school that would provide a modern approach to higher education. Thus, Bradley Polytechnic Institute was chartered in 1896.

Harper, along with his hand-picked delegates and faculty, staffed Bradley when it opened its doors in 1897. Harper guided the university through its foundational years as the first president and served on the university's board until he died of cancer in 1906 at age 50. According to Joanne Glasser in her 2012 Founder's Day remarks, his last words were, "God always helps."

*photo by Spwcial Collections, Bradley University Library*

## FACTS

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### 11 quick Lydia tidbits

BY TORI MOSES  
Editor-in-Chief

1. Before she was born, Lydia's father Zeally Moss owned a plantation in Kentucky, but he eventually gave the territory rent free to the land's workers because he didn't want to make a living based on slavery. It's speculated Lydia later included her home in the underground railroad due to her opposition to slavery.

2. Lydia made her first business deal as a teenager when she traded a horse her father gave her for 40 acres of land. She cleared the land and sold the logs to her future husband, Tobias Bradley, who ran a sawmill.

3. Lydia made the suit Tobias wore on their wedding day by stitching together pieces of dresses and aprons.

4. When Lydia and Tobias were first married, the couple lived with her parents in their hometown of Vevay, Indiana.

5. Before deciding on founding a school, Lydia considered establishing an orphanage.

6. Tobias developed Peoria's first public library.

7. Lydia was not only a businesswoman, but she also strived to be a good housekeeper. She made her own butter, salted down her own meat, spun yarn, made clothing and did other things that housewives were expected to do in the 19th century.

8. When Tobias died at age 56 from a carriage accident, Lydia took over management of their estate and doubled its value from \$500,000 to \$1 million within 10 years.

9. Lydia's six children and husband died young, so every Sunday, Lydia took a carriage through Springdale Cemetery and placed flowers picked from her garden on their graves.

10. The home Lydia and Tobias built on Moss Avenue in 1858 is still there today, and it is now divided into two apartments.

11. Lydia's favorite flowers were roses; she was known for growing them in the garden behind her home.

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All letters to the editor must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday in Sisson Hall 319 or emailed to [bradleyscout@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyscout@gmail.com) for inclusion in Friday's issue. Letters longer than 500 words will not be accepted. The Scout reserves the right to edit letters for inappropriate content. All letters must include the writer's name, contact information and relationship to Bradley. Responses to published letters will be eligible for print only the week following their appearance in the Scout.

Any e-mails directed to members of the Scout staff may be published as letters.

# Family ties

BY SAMMANTHA DELLARIA, MEGAN BAMMANN  
News Editor, Design Editor

## Zeally Moss (Father)

Born to Nathaniel Moss and Nancy Ann Cockrell on March 6, 1755, in Loudoun County, Virginia, Zeally Moss lived an adventurous life. In the spring of 1777, Zeally was drafted to serve in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. During the war, Zeally was appointed to captain but later served as assistant Quartermaster and then Wagon Master. As Wagon Master, his job was to oversee the movement of supplies and troops.

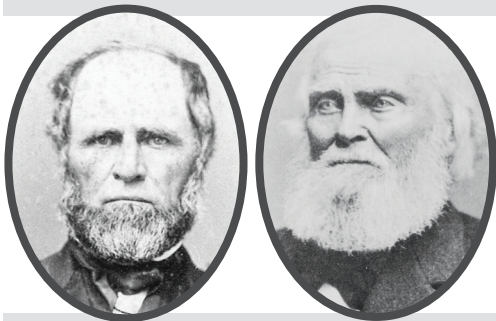
Zeally was present during the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, the event that ended the Revolutionary War in 1781. During his time in the Continental Army, Zeally spent some time serving under General George Washington. Zeally later attended Washington's funeral in 1799.

He returned to Virginia to become a Baptist minister and married Elizabeth Martha Berry in 1786. Berry died while giving birth to the couple's daughter, who was named Elizabeth in honor of her late mother.

He then married Jenny Glasscock Oct. 28, 1790. Jenny was a relative of President George Washington through her father's lineage. Together, the couple had six children, including their youngest daughter, Lydia.

Zeally ventured West as the nation and frontier were expanding, and he moved his growing family to Kentucky in 1792. He acquired land in Kentucky and with it, two slaves. His distaste of slavery led him to free his slaves before he moved to Vevay, Indiana, a non-slave state. While in Indiana, Zeally earned a considerable amount of wealth through land and business transactions.

During his life, Zeally passed down to each of his children sections of land for their ownership. He passed away Oct. 31, 1839 in the home of his son McKaig, located near Peoria. He is buried with the rest of his family in the Springdale Cemetery in Peoria.



## Tobias S. Bradley (Husband)

Tobias S. Bradley was born in 1811 in Kentucky into a family that had once been wealthy but lost its fortune. His parents were Judge William Bradley and Rebecca Bradley.

When Tobias was a young boy, the family moved to Vevay, Indiana. In early adulthood, Tobias worked as a store clerk and was able to learn about business. Tobias later went into produce trading on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. He ran a flatboat to St. Louis.

Furthering his business efforts, Tobias opened a sawmill and woodyard. In the 1830s, a young Lydia sold logs from her timberland to Tobias. In 1837, Tobias and Lydia were married in Vevay.

After moving to Peoria in 1847, Tobias became involved in many businesses with William Moss. In addition to his business endeavors, Tobias worked for multiple charitable causes, often raising money to build churches, and he helped opened Peoria's first public library.

On the first day of May in 1867, Tobias was traveling in his carriage not far from Peoria. When his carriage crashed, the horse had trampled Tobias, leaving him fatally injured. A civilian named Mrs. Whitney found him injured and brought him to her home overnight before doctors moved him back to his home in Peoria the next day. Tobias died of his injuries May 4.

## Capt. William Moss (Brother)

William Moss, the son of Zeally Moss and Jenny Glasscock, had a similar inclination for business and exploration endeavors as his father and sister, Lydia. Born in 1798, William was considered to be a generous and lively man.

William was the first member of the Moss-Bradley family to come to Peoria, moving there in the early 1830s.

While living in Peoria, William operated many businesses, including a steamboat operation, which made trips on the Illinois River and the Mississippi River. His steamboat business earned him the title of "Captain." During his many business ventures, Zeally often worked with Tobias Bradley, Lydia's husband, who had experience trading on the Ohio River and the Mississippi River.

In addition to his steamboat business, William also set up a sawmill and a distillery, both of which were successful.

After the Gold Rush began, William decided to travel to California in 1861. While on a hunting expedition in California, he was brutally mauled by a grizzly bear, but he survived by killing the animal with his hunting knife.

William remained in California until he died in 1883.

In addition to William, Lydia had five other siblings. Between Lydia's six siblings, they had a total of 36 children and 101 grandchildren.



photo by Spwcial Collections, Bradley University Library

LEFT OVAL: Tobias Bradley. RIGHT OVAL: William Moss. ABOVE, left to right: Lydia and Tobias' daughter Laura, Tobias, Lydia's mother Jenny Glasscock and Lydia Moss Bradley.

## Lydia's Children

Lydia and Tobias outlived all six of their children, who died of illnesses at early ages before making it to adulthood. Detailed records of the Bradley children's records were not kept because of the time period.

**Rebecca Bradley** – The first child of Tobias and Lydia lived to the age of six. While Lydia and Rebecca were on a visit to William Moss's home in Peoria, Rebecca became ill and died Aug. 25, 1845. After the death of Rebecca, Tobias and Lydia sold their Indiana home and moved into the Moss Avenue residence in Peoria.

**Tobias Bradley Jr.** – In the same year the Bradley family moved to Peoria, Lydia's and Tobias's seven-month-old baby became ill and died Dec. 3, 1847.

**Clarissa Bradley** – Only 16 days after the death of Tobias Jr., the Bradleys' second daughter also became ill and passed away at the age of four. The death of Clarissa left Lydia and Tobias childless until the birth of their next daughter, Laura.

**Laura Bradley** – In the spring of 1849, Lydia gave birth to her third daughter, Laura, who lived the longest of any of the Bradley children. Laura died at the age of 14 in 1864, and she was the only remaining child of Lydia and Tobias. Lydia named Laura Bradley Park in her honor.

**Mary Bradley** – Mary was born on June 26, 1851, but the 10-month-old infant passed away of an illness in the spring of 1852.

**William "Willie" Bradley** – The last child to be born to Lydia and Tobias was born March 16, 1853, and lived two years.

LYDIA

Timeline of Lydia’s life

BY MADDIE GEHLING  
Managing Editor

**1837** – Lydia marries Tobias Bradley on May 11 in Vevay.

**1845** – Lydia and Tobias’s daughter, Rebecca, passes away. Over the next 19 years, all six Bradley children die, with Laura living the longest to age 14.

**1816** – Lydia Moss is born on July 31 in Vevay, Indiana. Her father was a captain in the American Revolutionary War.

**1839** – Lydia and Tobias’ first child, Rebecca, is born in January. The couple will have five more children in the next 16 years.

**1847** – Lydia, Tobias and Clarissa move to Peoria in the springtime and purchase a tract of land.

Horology makes timely debut on Hilltop

BY ALEX KRYAH  
Sports Editor

When Bradley University began as Bradley Polytechnic Institute in 1897, founder Lydia Moss Bradley sought for a practical program to begin developing her new college. She found that with horology, the study of watchmaking. For over 63 years, six months and 11 days, horology was the most important program on the Hilltop.

The idea of watchmaking originated in Germany in 1504. As time went on, it became a common profession throughout the rest of Europe and the United States. J.R. Parsons of LaPorte, Indiana, founded the first American watch-

making school.

Parsons raised enough money and sparked enough interest to begin teaching students the craft of making and repairing watches, but when his operation became popular, Parsons needed more money to run his school.

Luckily for Parsons, a wealthy Lydia Moss Bradley was searching for a program that would teach “its students the means of living an independent, industrious and useful life by the aid of practical knowledge of the useful arts and sciences,” according to her will.

Parson’s school fit the objective, so Lydia purchased a controlling interest in the school in 1892 and

transported all of Parson’s students and staff to Peoria to begin working at the Peoria Watch Company, who operated in the South Manual Arts building on the 1300 block of Fredonia Ave.

The Parson’s Horological Institute, dubbed by Lydia, ran in this location until the building burned down in 1896. This gave rise to the building of Westlake Hall, which came to be known as Bradley Polytechnic Institute’s home for the horology school.

The students would learn the craft of watchmaking while also selling these watches on behalf of the university. For their efforts, the students would receive a cut

of the sale.

As the 20th century progressed, the desire for watches grew. The industry was booming and consequently, so did the popularity of Bradley’s horology department. The school was nationally renowned for its watchmaking for decades.

However, interest in the program naturally declined. During the horology department’s height, Bradley would enroll over 100 students each year who paid an average tuition of \$1,200 each year. Near the end, Bradley had a difficult time even filling the school with students.

Because of declining enrollment

and a desire to shift the university’s interests toward academic endeavors, Bradley shut down the horology school June 1, 1961.

During its time, the horology school had an immense impact on the university’s growth. It attracted students from all over the world and put Bradley on the map. The students created the clock that sits atop Westlake, a building named after one of its most esteemed dean’s, Allen T. Westlake.

While watchmaking may be a dead art on the Hilltop, Lydia Moss Bradley’s introduction of horology to Bradley Polytechnic Institute led the way for a tradition of clockwork-like excellence.



FROM TOP LEFT, clockwise: The Bradley Sundial, built in 1905 by a professor of horology, sits in working order in Westlake Hall. The first watch created at the Peoria Watch Company, a business established by Lydia, is a symbol of the horological program. An old sign for Westlake Hall, which originally housed the watchmaking school, is on display. Students at Bradley Polytechnic Institute used an array of tools to construct watches, some similar to those of a jewelry-maker.

photos by Maddie Gehling

**1867** – Lydia's husband Tobias dies after a carriage accident.

**1875** – Lydia becomes the first woman member of a national bank board, and she later serves as director of the board for 25 years.

**1903** – Lydia wins a U.S. Supreme Court case over a land dispute.

**1869** – Lydia marries Edward Clark Dec. 29. She filed the nation's first prenuptial agreement, which provides useful when the couple divorces in 1873.

**1897** – The Bradley Polytechnic Institute is founded on Nov. 13 with a focus on horology, or watchmaking.

**1907** – Lydia passes away Jan. 16 in her home.

## Q & A: If you met Lydia, what would you say?

BY LISA STEMMONS  
Voice Editor



"Lydia was one of the firsts [female founders] in our country, which is really amazing because, as young feminists, we get to come to a college that started off appreciating us and fighting for our rights."  
-Mackenzie Newman, freshman, theater arts and advertising



"I love the legacy Lydia brings as far as women empowerment."  
-Grace Elisco, freshman, management and leadership



"What I would tell Lydia is thank you for starting a school that has an environment where I'm able to learn, grow and get hands-on experience in my chosen field."  
-Ethan McConkey, senior, sports communication



"She made sure that we would always be on time."  
-Andrew Bogetz, junior, management information systems



"Thanks for not letting yourself be bound by gender stereotypes, for taking the initiative to start a university and act as such a great philanthropist to a community that really needed it and not being afraid to leave such a great legacy."  
-Katherine Folan, sophomore, organizational communications



"I would tell Lydia that she looks good as a statue."  
-Alex Graika, sophomore, mechanical engineering

## Artifacts of the Alumni Center

BY BRIEN JACKSON  
Assistant Voice Reporter

Much of campus has visited the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center for orientation sessions, guest speakers or other special events, but visitors' eyes often pass over the novelties the building has on display.

Completed in 2011, the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center is dedicated to emphasizing Bradley's history and creating bridges between alumni and both current and prospective students. Here are a few key displays to check out when visiting the Alumni Center:

### Lydia Moss Bradley exhibit

The first floor of the Alumni Center is dominated by two large exhibits; one is dedicated to the life of our school's founder, Lydia Moss Bradley. The exhibit explores much of Lydia's early life, including her marriage to Tobias Bradley, the founding of Bradley Polytechnic Institute and the school's evolution into the four-year university campus knows today. There are quite a few relics on display as well, including examples of jewelry and a glass luncheon set owned by Lydia herself.

### Mark Turner Library

Near the Lydia exhibit is the Mark Turner Library. The small

library was a gift from Christine and Mark Turner (class of 1980), and it contains yearbooks from previous graduating classes. A marble fireplace modeled after the one in Lydia Moss Bradley's home on Moss Avenue can be seen inside the library and the Lydia Moss Bradley exhibit on the other side.

### School History – 1940s-present

On the opposite side of the floor from the Lydia memorabilia is an exhibit displaying the evolution of Bradley from the 1940s to present

day. The display cases in this area hold a number of items and sports memorabilia that students and faculty would often use or wear during those eras. There are even small replicas of a common dormitory through the decades embedded in a nearby wall, allowing for a close-up (albeit miniature) view of dorm life over the years.

### Alumni Quad and Circle of Pride

Just outside the Alumni Center is the Alumni Quad, a large open space used for campus-wide

events, football games and, if the weather is right, tanning in the sun. The Circle of Pride, which opened in September 2016, accompanies the quad and bares a number of Bradley flags and benches.

In addition, the Alumni Center has numerous offices used by faculty to keep connections with alum. The balcony offers a gor-

geous view of the quad, and a grand meeting room (closed off to students) is used to maintain relationships that will further enhance Lydia and the university's legacy.

The Hayden-Clark Alumni Center allows campus to be much more appreciative of Bradley's history, so make sure to stop and look around.



photo by Brien Jackson

A painting of young Lydia, created by Bradley artist-in-residence Donna Carr Roberts, hangs above a replica of the Bradley's original fireplace in the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center.

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*Stephanie Aaron*

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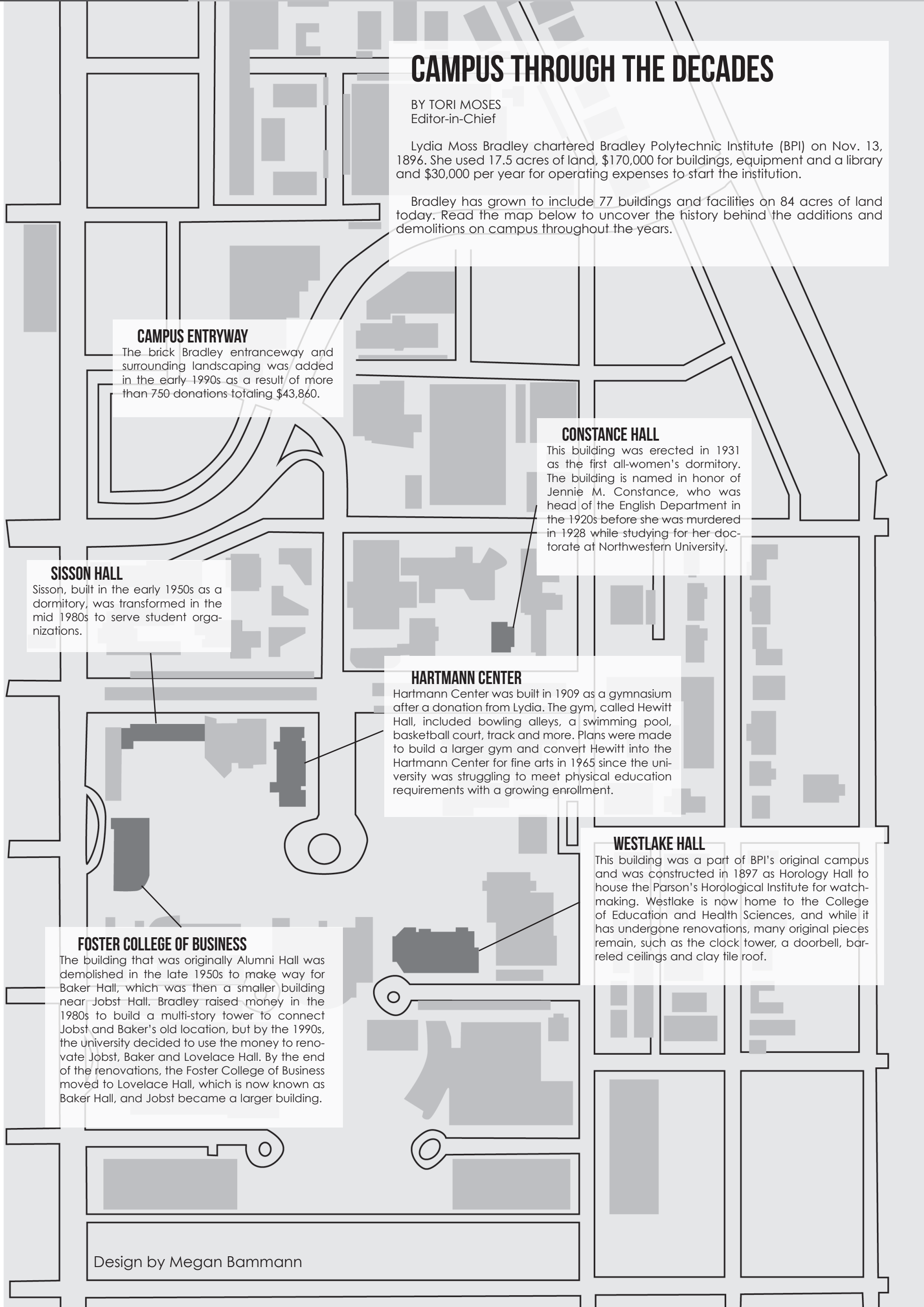
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## CAMPUS THROUGH THE DECADES

BY TORI MOSES  
Editor-in-Chief

Lydia Moss Bradley chartered Bradley Polytechnic Institute (BPI) on Nov. 13, 1896. She used 17.5 acres of land, \$170,000 for buildings, equipment and a library and \$30,000 per year for operating expenses to start the institution.

Bradley has grown to include 77 buildings and facilities on 84 acres of land today. Read the map below to uncover the history behind the additions and demolitions on campus throughout the years.

### CAMPUS ENTRYWAY

The brick Bradley entranceway and surrounding landscaping was added in the early 1990s as a result of more than 750 donations totaling \$43,860.

### SISSON HALL

Sisson, built in the early 1950s as a dormitory, was transformed in the mid 1980s to serve student organizations.

### CONSTANCE HALL

This building was erected in 1931 as the first all-women's dormitory. The building is named in honor of Jennie M. Constance, who was head of the English Department in the 1920s before she was murdered in 1928 while studying for her doctorate at Northwestern University.

### HARTMANN CENTER

Hartmann Center was built in 1909 as a gymnasium after a donation from Lydia. The gym, called Hewitt Hall, included bowling alleys, a swimming pool, basketball court, track and more. Plans were made to build a larger gym and convert Hewitt into the Hartmann Center for fine arts in 1965 since the university was struggling to meet physical education requirements with a growing enrollment.

### WESTLAKE HALL

This building was a part of BPI's original campus and was constructed in 1897 as Horology Hall to house the Parson's Horological Institute for watch-making. Westlake is now home to the College of Education and Health Sciences, and while it has undergone renovations, many original pieces remain, such as the clock tower, a doorbell, bar-reled ceilings and clay tile roof.

### FOSTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The building that was originally Alumni Hall was demolished in the late 1950s to make way for Baker Hall, which was then a smaller building near Jobst Hall. Bradley raised money in the 1980s to build a multi-story tower to connect Jobst and Baker's old location, but by the 1990s, the university decided to use the money to renovate Jobst, Baker and Lovelace Hall. By the end of the renovations, the Foster College of Business moved to Lovelace Hall, which is now known as Baker Hall, and Jobst became a larger building.

# Lydia Moss Bradley, the entrepreneur

## A woman ahead of her time

BY KYLE STONE  
Senior Copy Editor

Lydia Moss Bradley was more than a founder of a major academic institution. She was engaged in a multitude of business endeavors, ranging from real estate and farmland development to the finance industry.

While some regarded Lydia as a recluse, she remained constantly busy. Every morning, Lydia's business manager, W. W. Hammond, would meet Lydia at her house to discuss business affairs.

"It has been customary to meet at her house every morning and discuss that business transacted the day before and consider new business," In his biography of Lydia, Hammond said, "At these meetings, all papers necessary to be signed were presented and read to her before she signed them. She signed all her checks knowing what they were [for]."

Hammond's account of Lydia's business affairs detailed her foresight into the value of property development. Over the course of 10 years, this foresight is what enabled Bradley's estate to amount to more than \$1 million dollars, or more than \$25 million in today's dollars.

"Mrs. Bradley had invested largely in acre property then adjoining, now included in, the City of Peoria," Hammond said. "The lots were selling at \$200. A few years later, [when] I finished selling out these additions [for her], [she was] getting at least \$1,000 [per] lot."

However, Hammond did not identify Lydia as a shrewd or manipulative investor, but rather one who believed in enhancing the lives of those within her community.

"In the lending of money, Mrs. Bradley has been uniformly help-



photo by Special Collections. Bradley University Library  
Lydia sits for a photo with the First National Bank in Peoria Board of Trustees, of which she was a member. She went on to serve as director of the board for 25 years and was the first female member of a national bank board in America.

ful to the borrower, seldom has had a foreclosure, never called in a loan as long as the interest was paid and, by her loans, has helped build nearly every church in the City [of Peoria]," Hammond said.

Lydia also made large contributions to the development of areas containing formerly-infertile farmland.

"Her development of farm property will be found perhaps the clearest examples of making money and doing good at the same time," Hammond said. "In 1885,

the drainage of [a] marsh, containing 5,000 acres had just been completed ... which she had just bought at \$10 per acre. She built farm buildings and fences and put the land under cultivation, but the crops were poor over the whole marsh ... A car load [of salt] was ordered and spread broadcast on 100 acres of the land ... At once the whole neighborhood adopted the plan, and good crops have been uniformly secured ever since. These lands are now selling for \$140 an acre."

Not only did Lydia continuously make wise investments over her lifetime, but she also broke female employment barriers that existed in her time. In 1875, Lydia became a board member of the First National Bank in Peoria, making her the first woman in the United States to achieve the title.

However, the designation did not completely satisfy Lydia, as she remained actively involved with the bank over her 25 years as director, even providing criticism when she deemed necessary.

In one instance, Lydia commented sarcastically that she did not believe bank president William E. Stone was doing an adequate job.

"Well, it seems to me that you have done the best you know how," Lydia told him.

While the societal contribution of Lydia most commonly remembered today lies in the academic institution Bradley University, it is important not to forget the impact Lydia made in the Peoria community and as a role model for aspiring women in business.

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*Classified ads can be submitted to the Scout business Office in Sisson Hall 321 or by calling the Business office at (309) 677-3057. Please submit classified ads by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in the Friday issue.*

# Thank you, Lydia

Lydia Moss Bradley led an impressive life, and our hats go off to her. She was a pioneer in many ways – her business endeavors, her philanthropies and her own westward move to Peoria.

This year, the Bradley community was educated about her life and legacy through special events, Hilltop Happenings’ weekly facts and even a customized ice cream flavor from local shop The Spotted Cow. And now The Scout is able to be part of something truly extraordinary in Lydia’s bicentennial birthday celebrations.

When we had the opportunity to create a special edition spotlighting Bradley’s foundress, our staff jumped at the chance. Imagine if, after reading these stories about Lydia and her life, students began to walk by her statue in Founder’s Circle with more than just a passing glance.

According to her will, Lydia’s greatest wish was to found a school that taught its students “the means of living an independent, industrious and useful life by the aid of practical knowledge and the useful arts and sciences.”

University President Gary Roberts said he believes she did just that.

“I think that Bradley today is something she’d be very proud of, because what we do is essentially exactly what she wanted, which is give people the skills they need to live a productive, successful and happy life,” Roberts said.

The Scout has dedicated time to learn about, report on and share Lydia’s memory and achievements for the rest of the Bradley and Peoria communities.

Our university is a part of her legacy – and now, we are too.

*\*A special thank you to the Student Affairs Office and the Special Collections Center of the Cullom-Davis Library*



## Foundress celebrated for feminism

BY KYLEE HIGGINS  
Copy Editor

Frontier explorer. Philanthropist. Businesswoman. University foundress.

Lydia Moss Bradley was many things – and among them, a feminist. Ahead of her time in many ways, Lydia paved the way for generations of students and community members far after her life.

After her husband’s death in 1867, Lydia took over his open seat on the board of directors at Peoria’s First National Bank, making her the first female member of a national bank board in the United States.

Lydia was also a driven philanthropist. The money she used to

help fund various organizations was initially attained from her late husband’s estate settlement, which consisted of 700 acres of land in Peoria. Totaling around \$500,000, Lydia continued to use her entrepreneurial experience to more than double those funds, later becoming a self-made millionaire.

In 1869, just before marrying her second husband Edward Clark, Lydia Moss Bradley became the first American woman to draft a prenuptial agreement to protect her assets. She was savvy enough to be careful with her wealth and was unwilling to place herself in a position of vulnerability. The agreement, which Clark signed, declared if the marriage did not



photo by Special Collections. Bradley University Library

LEFT: Lydia works on business documents at a table in her home. ABOVE: Lydia reclines in a chair on the stoop of her home on Moss Avenue.



last, each would retain their individual holdings. Lydia and Clark divorced in 1873.

Additionally, Lydia opened the Bradley Home for Aged Women to care for widowed and childless women, as well as deeded the land to form Laura Bradley Park. She donated money to places like the Universalist Church, paying off their \$30,000 mortgage, and invested \$15,000 in the Grand Opera House in downtown Peoria. She also donated an amount of

estate money to the Society of St. Francis to build a hospital – now known as OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

Of course, Lydia’s greatest achievement was in the founding of Bradley University, originally the Bradley Polytechnic Institute, in 1897.

But her legacy lives on past the 19th century.

Lydia was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1998, nominated by then-univer-

sity president John Brazil for her business and philanthropic spirit. The hall of fame’s induction ceremony was the largest of its time with 21 inductees, and it was also the 150th anniversary of the Women’s Right Convention.

Lydia’s life achievements lent to her being a woman ahead of her time, and her accomplishments can still be seen around Peoria today.