



YOSEMITE

NATIONAL PARK

History At-A-Glance

The Bracebridge Dinner at Yosemite

- 1927 The Majestic Yosemite Hotel opens. The first Bracebridge Dinner is performed. Donald Tresidder, president of the Yosemite Park & Curry Company, and wife Mary Curry conceive the dinner and hire well-known pageant director Garnet Holme to develop the script and oversee the production. Donald and Mary play the roles of Squire and Lady Bracebridge. Ansel Adams plays the Lord of Misrule.
- 1928 Jeannette Dyer Spencer, the hotel's interior designer, proposes significant ideas to improve the dinner.
- 1929 Holme dies and Ansel Adams becomes director. Jeanette Dyer Spencer and husband Ted expand their roles supporting Adams.
- 1931 Adams re-writes and adds new characters to the script, including his role as Major Domo, head of the Squire's household.
- 1934 Eugene Fulton, famed Bay Area chorale conductor joins the production.
- 1938 The Bracebridge Dinner is featured on the cover of *Life Magazine* and recognized as an "impressive American holiday tradition".
- 1942 Bracebridge is suspended during WWII while the hotel is used by the U.S. Navy for recuperating personnel.
- 1946 The hotel re-opens and The Bracebridge Dinner resumes. Eugene Fulton takes on expanded role as musical director and his wife, Anna-Marie, becomes accompanist and administrator for the dinner.
- 1948 Donald Tresidder dies and The Bracebridge Dinner nearly ceases. Adams convinces the Yosemite Park & Curry Company to keep it alive and strong.
- 1950 Eugene Fulton's daughters, Andrea and Linnea, join the cast as Villagers.
- 1956 A second Bracebridge performance is added on Christmas Day to meet growing demand. George Willey begins what would become a 40-year role as Squire Bracebridge. Martha Miller joins the production to coordinate timing between the performance and the wait staff.
- 1961 Geoffrey Lardner, professional stage and screen actor, joins the cast as The Parson. Andrea Fulton takes on the role of The Minstrel.
- 1972 Ted Spencer and wife, Jeanette Dyer Spencer, retire.

- 1973 Ansel and Virginia Adams retire from the production and Bracebridge veteran Eugene Fulton becomes Director.
- 1976 Martha Miller takes on expanded role as liaison between the Yosemite Park & Curry Company and Andrea Fulton Productions.
- 1977 Annual lottery imposed by the National Park Service to manage high demand for tickets.
- 1978 Third performance added on Christmas Eve, in addition to the two on Christmas Day. Eugene Fulton dies unexpectedly after the first dress rehearsal.
- 1979 Andrea Fulton becomes director and combines Ansel Adams' Major Domo character with The Housekeeper. The Bracebridge Singers renamed The Eugene Fulton Chorale.
- 1984 Ansel Adams dies at age 82.
- 1985 A 4th and 5th performance are added on Dec 22nd.
- 1989 The Eugene Fulton Chorale renamed the Andrea Fulton Chorale.
- 1996 Geoffrey Lardner retires after 35 years as The Parson.
- 1997 George Willey retires after 40 years as The Squire.
- 1999 Longtime cast member Michael McCarty assumes the role of Squire Merrick of Bracebridge.
- 2000 Andrea Fulton enhances the script, music, characters, and costumes to enrich the dinner.
- 2001 The 6th and 7th performances are added.
- 2002 The 8th performance is added. Lani Spicer joins the team as the Andrea Fulton Productions Photographer and Videographer.
- 2004 Anna-Marie Fulton celebrates her 60th year as a cast member.
- 2005 Anna-Marie Fulton dies. Melissa Wortman, famous Bay Area costumer, joins the production team.
- 2012 Jonathan Spencer takes on the role of Squire Neville of Bracebridge Hall. Spencer also joins the administrative team as production manager to join Fulton in producing the dinner, with the help of Joy Graham-Korst.
- 2013 Holly Noble, who played the role of Lady Delphinium since the early 1990s, dies. Longtime cast member Marilou Brewer assumes the role.
- 2015 Two new characters are added, the Squire's Scottish cousin, Lady Molly McKay and Sir Carmichael. Andrea Fulton asks Gregory Parker to take on the duties of associate musical director. In addition, C.J. & Brett Blankenship are named assistant stage director and choreographer.