



History At-A-Glance

The Bracebridge Dinner at Yosemite

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- 1927 The Ahwahnee 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, Ahwahnee 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.
- 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 Ahwahnee is used by the U.S. Navy for recuperating personnel.
- 1946 The Ahwahnee 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.
- 1958 Conrad Walla, chorale singer and Eugene Fulton's student, begins the first of 50 years with The Bracebridge Dinner.
- 1961 Geoffrey Lardner, professional stage and screen actor, joins the cast as The Parson. Andrea Fulton takes on 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 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 is added on Dec 22nd.
- 1987 Michael and Margo McCarty, Bay Area singers, join The Eugene Fulton Chorale.
- 1989 The Eugene Fulton Chorale renamed the Andrea Fulton Chorale.
- 1991 Michael McCarty takes on the role of The Minstrel.
- 1996 Geoffrey Lardner retires after 35 years as The Parson.
- 1997 George Willey retires after 40 years as The Squire.
- 1999 Michael McCarty becomes Squire 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.

- 2004 Anna-Marie Fulton celebrates her 60th year as a cast member. Margo McCarty, 17-year cast veteran, becomes Co-Producer. Lani Spicer joins the team as the Andrea Fulton Productions Photographer and Videographer.
- 2005 Anna-Marie Fulton dies. Melissa Wortman, famous Bay Area costumer, joins the production team.
- 2006 Michael McCarty becomes Co-Artistic Producer.
- 2008 Andrea Fulton celebrates her 59th year with The Bracebridge Dinner at Yosemite.

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