

701 E. Foothill Boulevard



Charles E. Slosson, a Monrovia real estate pioneer from the 1880's, purchased 50 acres of land from the Bradbury Estate Company in July of 1906 with the intention of creating an exclusive residential neighborhood just east of the city limits. The new Oak Park Tract lay north of Wildrose Avenue and east of Shamrock Avenue. There are no early City of Monrovia records

available to review since the Oak Park Tract was not annexed to the City until 1925.

Among the purchasers of lots in the tract was Julia H. Bandholt. She was born June 21, 1864 in Central City, Colorado, the daughter of William Cannon and his wife, the former Catherine Liddell. She and her family were living in Janesville, Wisconsin when the 1880 United States Federal Census was enumerated. Julia was still living with her family in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1884 and apparently moved to Los Angeles from there.

John F. Bandholt was born in Hamburg, Germany in August, 1859, the son of Frederick and Sophia Bandholt. He left Hamburg on May 15, 1867 with his mother and siblings, Louise, Wilhelmina, and Friedrich, bound for New York. They arrived sixteen days later aboard the steamship "Bavaria." By 1870, the family was settled in Bethel, Sullivan, New York. Ten years later they were in Hastings, York County, Nebraska. Wilhelmina and Friedrich did not survive childhood, and another son, Frederick had been added to the family. Then the Bandholt family followed the great migration to California and was living in Los Angeles by 1887. Here they spent the remainder of their lives.

In 1890, John Bandholt and Julia Cannon were married in Los Angeles by the Rev. Will A. Knighten, who was to later serve the First Methodist Church in Monrovia. After spending the first twelve years of their married life in Los Angeles, they purchased a twenty acre citrus ranch in Glendora, where they built an imposing Craftsman/Shingle style home that came to be known as "Boulder Grange." That structure now serves the community of Glendora as the La Fetra Senior Center.

John and Julia Bandholt sold their Glendora property in 1912, and moved to a rented house in Monrovia. Julia Bandholt ultimately acquired three lots in the Oak Park Tract, two of them situated on the northeast corner of White Oak Avenue, now known as Foothill Blvd., and Shamrock Avenue. She obtained the services of Joseph Thompson, a local builder, for the construction of a new house. Joseph Thompson left his native Ireland in 1908, came to Los Angeles, and resumed the craft he had learned from his father. Two years later, he arrived in Monrovia and began to establish a solid reputation for his fine workmanship. The Frith, Wierk, Johnson, and Bailey residences in Monrovia, among many others, survive as fine examples of his work.

Like "Boulder Grange" in Glendora, the new Bandholt house in Monrovia was an imposing Craftsman style structure that featured the extensive use of river rock. It is not known at this time who the architect was for the house. Jann and Julia Bandholt moved into their completed home in 1913. Their daughter and only child, Margaret, who had married Donald J. Arnold, moved into the house next door to her parents. Two daughters, Marjorie and Dorothy, joined the Arnold family during their time in Monrovia. Julia Bandholt was an independent woman who actively invested in real estate during her residency in Monrovia.

John F. Bandholt died in Los Angeles on October 1, 1916 after an illness of more than a year, and was buried in the family plot at Angeles Rosedale Cemetery. Julia Bandholt continued to live in the house with her aged mother, Catherine Cannon. By 1920, the Arnold family had left Monrovia and moved to Los Angeles. That may have influenced Julia's decision to sell her house and to move to Los Angeles as well. On May 12, 1920, Julia Bandholt sold her fine home to John and Amelia Bartle and moved into Los Angeles, where she died on December 19, 1942. Her mother, Catherine Cannon, had died a number of years before.

John and Amelia Bartle had a reputation as solid as the house they purchased. Amelia's parents, Stephen and Annie Bowerman, had come to Monrovia from Canada in 1885, the same year John and Amelia were married in Port Arthur, Canada. The following year, John and Amelia came to Monrovia for a visit. They decided to relocate for John's health, and they completed their move in 1887.

John Bartle found a position with the First National Bank of Monrovia. He rose through the ranks and became president of the institution in 1894, continuing to serve as a vice president after the bank was merged into the Security Trust and Savings Bank in 1924. In his time, he was considered Monrovia's foremost businessman. Amelia Bartle was one of the founders of the Saturday Afternoon Club, and served as its president from 1891 to 1898. The club was responsible for establishing the Monrovia Public Library. Amelia Bartle was also one of the organizers of the Visiting Nurses Association.

John and Amelia Bartle moved into their new home with their daughter, Kathleen, who had married Roger Brown, and their son, Gerald, who was to become a prominent banker in his own right. Kathleen Bartle was a native of Monrovia, born here on January 26, 1888. She was educated in Monrovia schools, and attended the National Park Seminary in Washington, DC. Gerald F. Bartle was a native son, born here on May 3, 1899. He also attended Monrovia schools, and was a graduate of Stanford University. He followed in his father's footsteps as a banker, and began a promising career that was cut short by his untimely death in Monrovia on April 6, 1946. He married the former Doris Spinks, who survived him by many years. They had one son, Gerald F. Bartle Jr.

The Bartle family ownership was to continue for nearly fifty years. Amelia Bartle died on July 26, 1931, and John Bartle followed her just six months later on January 27, 1932. Both are buried at Live Oak Cemetery. Kathleen Bartle Brown

inherited the house from her parents. She was as prominent in her native community as were her parents, being a member of the Monrovia Woman's Club, the First Presbyterian Church, Chapter M of the P.E.O., and the Monrovia Guild of Children's Hospital. She died on January 27, 1970, the 38th anniversary of her father's death, and is buried in the Bartle family plot in Live Oak Cemetery

Kathleen Bartle Brown had no children, so the house was sold to settle her estate. The present owners, only the fourth family to own it in over a hundred years, acquired the property in 1993. They have made significant repairs to the roof system and painted the exterior of the house based on its 1929 appearance in "Picturesque Monrovia." Mechanical systems on the interior of the house have been upgraded as well. Joseph Thompson and Julia Bandholt would be pleased.