Hours of Operation:
Guided tours of the Museum are available —
Tuesday - Thursday:
12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
and 2:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday:
12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.,
2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Group tours may also be scheduled with advance reservation.

Admission:
Guided Museum Tours:
We request a donation of $5 for adults and $1 for children 12 and under.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS,

It’s always a joy to walk through the buildings and grounds of The Banning Museum and watch visitors of all ages enjoying the unique experiences presented here. We are honored to be able to share the remarkable and inspiring story of Phineas Banning and his impact on the Los Angeles area and beyond.

We can do this because of the help and support of our volunteers, donors, event sponsors, and loyal Friends of Banning Museum members. Working in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, you enable us to

Preserve History, Promote Education, and
Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit

In this issue of Banning and Company, we will take you inside some of the preservation and conservation projects that are currently underway thanks to your support. I hope you’ll be as excited as I am at the new ways we are working to interpret a fascinating part of our Southern California history for many years to come.

Finally, I must encourage you to join me at this year’s Wisteria Regale and help solve the mystery of Hollister Boddy’s disappearance.

Thank you for your support!

Julia Sheldon Banning
President, Friends of Banning Museum

PUMP HOUSE PROJECT PROGRESSING!

The deteriorating pump house walls have been torn down.
Plans are currently underway for
the removal and storage of the
historic water tank and pump.
The project is picking up steam!
The Banning Museum proudly displays a cast-iron cornstalk fence – one of only three known examples of this design in existence. The fence was originally cast in Philadelphia, circa 1852 by Wood/Mildenburg, Co. Our records indicate that the fence originally stood at the corner of St. Charles Avenue and Julia Street in the Garden district of New Orleans. In 1910, Phineas Banning’s oldest son, William, purchased the fence and relocated it to his home at 31st and Hoover Street in Los Angeles. When William Banning’s home was razed in the early 1930s, the fence was removed and stored for over 50 years in Pasadena. In 1984, members of the Banning family donated the fence to Friends of Banning Museum and it now stands guard around the home’s sunken terrace.

Thanks to Friends of Banning Museum, the fence recently received much-needed TLC and professional restoration by Smith Art Conservation LLC of Los Angeles. The next time you visit The Banning Museum, be sure to take a closer look at our extraordinary fence. Enjoy the pumpkins holding up each fence post and the morning glory vines winding through the cornstalks. It’s unlikely you’ll see anything of its kind anywhere else. Thank you for keeping it special!

In 1883, Phineas Banning along with second wife, Mary Hollister Banning, and their two daughters Mary and Lucy had their portraits painted in San Francisco. The portraits were framed by the S.A. Perry Company and then shipped to Wilmington and hung in the Banning home. Sadly, they had a short viewing life as Phineas died in 1885 and his wife, Mary, removed all four portraits shortly after his death when she left the house in 1886, never to return.

The portraits remained in the family for a number of years. The Banning home was sold to the City of Los Angeles in 1927 and by 1936 the residence had opened up as a historic site. Calls for donations went out during the early 1930s and donations of furnishing from the Banning family and other individuals began to fill the vacant house.

In the mid-1930s, the portraits came back to the Banning house. There are original City of Los Angeles decals on the backs of the frames indicating that they were placed on the official inventory list for the Parks Department. At some point between the original donation and when Friends of Banning Museum formed in the early 1970s the frame for Mary Hollister Banning was removed from her portrait and lost. For over thirty years we have displayed only the three paintings of Phineas and his two daughters as pictured above. Fortunately the unframed portrait had been stored for decades and remained protected.

Last year FBM made the decision to recreate the missing frame for the portrait of Mary Hollister Banning. Presently work is under way to recreate the missing frame (using one of the other frames as the example) and to have her portrait cleaned and remounted to a new stretcher. The other three portraits will also be cleaned and conserved, and once the project is completed we will be able to display all four paintings together in the dining room at the Banning home for the first time in over 130 years.

Our thanks to The Norris Foundation and to you for your generous support of this historic project!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HOLLISTER BODDY?

Was it Miss Periwinkle Lowber with the Poison? Was it Colonel Drum Plum with the Croquet Mallet? Or... Was it Lord Angus MacPherson with the Sword?

FRIENDS OF BANNING MUSEUM PRESENTS

2017 WISTERIA REGALE
MYSTERY AT THE BANNING MANSION
MARCH 25, 2017 | 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS: Ed and Susie Beall

IN CELEBRATION OF THE WISTERIA REGALE
returning to the Banning Mansion, join us in playing the classic detective game, CLUE, with a Banning twist.

$150 PER PERSON
RSVP: 310.548.2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MYSTERY SUSPECTS, VISIT:
WWW.THEBANNINGMUSEUM.ORG
Visit Our New Exhibition and Let Your Heart Soar!

Messages of Love:
A STUDY OF VICTORIAN VALENTINE CARDS

VALENTINE’S DAY has been a popular observance for centuries, even though its origins are debated. One of the popular traditions is to give a significant other a card as a token of affection. Cards as we know them today developed during the Victorian Era. The Banning Museum proudly presents the exhibition Messages of Love: A Study of Victorian Valentine Cards, concentrating on the history of the cards and their evolution. Geraldine Knatz, FBM Board Member, made this exhibition possible by donating her valentine collection of which 20 cards are on display. All the valentines included in this exhibition are from the time period, not replicas.

This exhibition is open for viewing in the Harlyne & Kenneth Norris Visitor Center through August 2017.