

Neighbors of

# Heber Valley

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*Jeff Bradshaw*

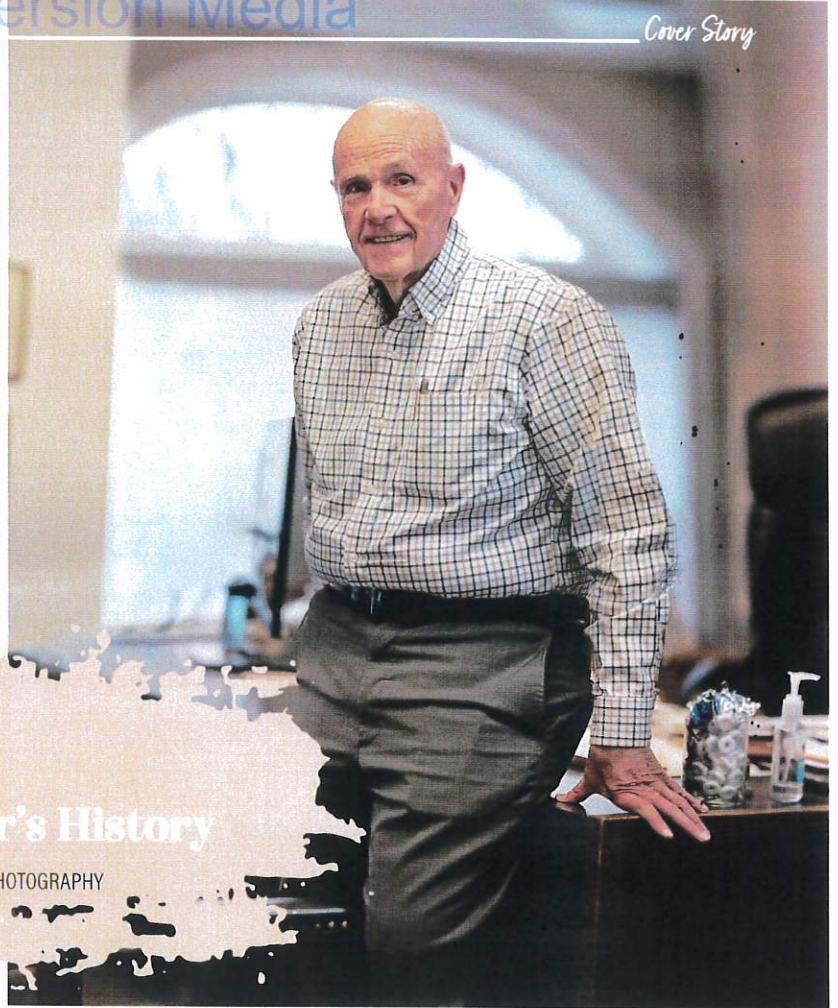
Living  
Insight into  
Heber's  
History



# Jeff Bradshaw

## Living Insight into Heber's History

BY KIRSTEN KOHLWEY • PHOTOS BY LEXIE CLAYBURN - TAKE A HIKE PHOTOGRAPHY



I met Jeff Bradshaw at his office on Main Street. He is as close to living history as you can get in Heber. His ancestry on his mother's side goes back to the settlers of Heber City. His great-great-grandparents were part of the Willie handcart company in 1856 that had to be rescued during an early snowstorm in Wyoming. They both survived along with their six children. Around 1859/60, they were among the founders of Heber City, settling there after a few years of living in the Provo area.

Jeff Bradshaw himself was born in Ogden, one month after World War II ended. He was about four years old when his parents moved his family to Heber. He attended Central Elementary School, which was demolished in February 2015 and has been replaced by the Public Safety Building. In 1963, he was in the next-to-last class that graduated from Wasatch High School that was on the current city park. Since then, another high school building has been built and then replaced by the current high school.

After one year of college at BYU, Jeff Bradshaw went on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for two and a half years to Belgium and France. He learned to speak French but says he has forgotten most of it since then. In November 1969, he got engaged to his wife. Life became quite hectic back then. In December 1969, his name was drawn as Number 1 for the draft. He joined the National Guard, finished his degree in January 1970, and spent the next six years serving in the National Guard. The Vietnam War ended before he finished his National Guard tour.

After being a CPA for 42 years, Jeff Bradshaw still says, "income taxes are fun." At the beginning of 2022, Jeff Bradshaw took in a partner, and the company is now called Bradshaw, Smith & Co. Jeff Bradshaw is so involved in the community, one has to wonder that he even has time to work. He doesn't just know Heber's history from living here, he has served in many appointed and elected positions over the years.

His father was "Mr. Lion," the secretary and treasurer of the Lion's Club, a service organization for the community, for many years, and Jeff joined him as a member for about 16 years. He left the Lion's Club when he was elected to the Wasatch School Board because the meetings were at the same time. He held that position for four years and then his wife wanted to run for the position and won. She served on the school board for 20 years.

During the lean years in starting up his practice, Jeff Bradshaw became the County Clerk and Auditor for four years from 1987-1990 while continuing to run his accounting firm. In 1991, the elected treasurer was diagnosed with cancer, and Jeff was appointed to fill the role from July 1994-1995. He was also on the board of the Chamber of Commerce for 10 years, three of those as President.

Along the way, Jeff's family grew to four daughters and 14 grandchildren. In his office he has a collection of autographed baseballs and baseball cards, which his children give him for special occasions. He played little league and pony league baseball, but his career ended at age 14, when his body no longer outperformed the other boys. Until the 70s, he enjoyed playing golf on occasion, and the last fishing trip he remembers was in the 80s. He thoroughly enjoys visiting his family, which has now spread out to Arizona, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Jeff Bradshaw has seen a lot of changes in Heber. As a boy he remembers seeing Sam Lowry carry a gunny sack into town about once a month. Sam Lowry served in World War I and became a hermit when he returned, living below where the Jordanelle Dam now is. Jeff has a portrait of Sam Lowry hanging on his wall, which an artist drew, who rented an art studio from Sam Lowry's niece. He was one of Heber's characters.

Through all of his appointed and elected positions, Jeff Bradshaw has helped shape Heber's development. He says, "My philosophy was, the city ought to have a say in how it grows." He served three terms on the Heber City Council starting in 2006, when the real growth years happened. He helped approve the Boyer subdivision, where Walmart is now. Back then people protested and then the recession hit. In the end, a 95,000-square-foot Walmart was built in 2011 instead of the 150,000-square-foot building that was originally planned. After that decision, all council members lost their next election or didn't run. Jeff Bradshaw was reelected in 2012. The most frequent complaint he hears about the Walmart now is that it isn't big enough.

He was part of the council that passed the Red Ledges development, which has turned out to be good for the city since they are mostly second homes. They provide tax revenue to the city without costing them much money for education and services. The original developers, the CEO of Ryder trucks, who married a Heber native, and his friend, the CEO of Black & Decker, still own



the remainder of Red Ledges.

He says the city is now doing the best they can with the current growth spurt. Since 2013 Jeff Bradshaw has been the interim director of the Wasatch County Housing Authority, and he has also been representing Wasatch County on the Mountainlands Community Housing Trust for nine years. They have developed two buildings, one with 26 units and one with 39 units, for independent senior housing across the street from the library and across from Rocky Mountain Care and an assisted living facility. Many towns would be jealous of such a convenient placement of these facilities. Currently the Mountainlands Community Housing Trust is working with other organizations to build 49 affordable housing units for essential workers.

Jeff Bradshaw enjoys what he is doing and sets a high bar for helping out your community. He says that when he was growing up, his parents and grandparents didn't talk much, but Jeff is a treasure trove of Heber's history, so if you want to know more, I suggest you talk to him.

