



The Cupola

Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

Spring / Summer 2017

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

The Dunsmuirs, The Hellmans, and The Pardees ~ By Ron Bachman

While the Dunsmuirs and the Hellmans were in the top 1% in San Francisco, the Pardees were close to that in Oakland. Although there is no record that they had met, they were contemporary and all are buried in Mountain View Cemetery. In April the Pardee Docents toured the Dunsmuir-Hellman House.



Alex Dunsmuir

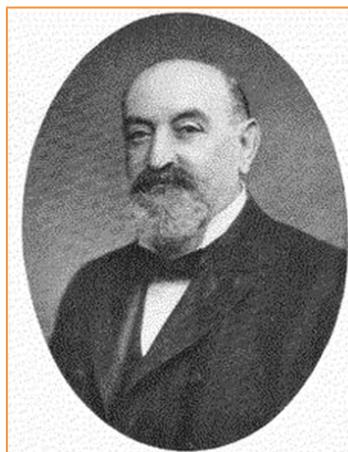
Alex Dunsmuir (1854-1900) came to San Francisco in 1878 to represent his family's business. They were coal mining magnates from Victoria, British Columbia. He soon became friendly with bar owner and bartender Wallace Waller who invited Alex to live in his home with his wife Josephine and daughter Edna, and this is where the story gets interesting. Josephine and Alex became lovers, and she divorced Wallace. They planned to marry, but Alex's family did not approve of Alex marrying a divorcee and would have cut him out of his inheritance. They lived together for 20 years until his parents died and his inheritance was secure. His wedding present to his older bride was the Dunsmuir House. Honeymooning in New York Alex died,

probably of liver complications from his penchant for alcohol.



Edna Wallace Hopper

Josephine returned to the Dunsmuir house but only lived for a year or two and died of lung cancer. Her daughter, Edna, was already well established on the Broadway stage in the musical, "Floradora" and did not want to return to Oakland. The house was sold in 1906 to Isaias Hellman (1842-1920) to be used as a summer home for this well to do family.



Isaias Hellman

Hellman came to America as a penniless immigrant from Europe (Bavaria) as a young man (1859). He made his way west to the young and thriving town of Los Angeles. He became a successful banker (Farmers and Merchant Bank), and with Henry Huntington*, developed the Los Angeles Railway. He purchased large holdings of land for development in Southern California – Rancho San Pedro, Alhambra, and Cucamonga. He became involved in wine making and bottled wine under the I.W. Hellman label. For many years he was a major player in the California Wine Industry. His great-great granddaughter, Frances Dinkelspiel, has recently published the novel, "Tangled Vines" which recounts the influence of Hellman in California Wine making. She has also published a book on Isaias, "Tower of Gold".

Isaias died in 1920, but his wife maintained the Dunsmuir-Hellman House until she died in 1950. The house was eventually sold to Oakland in 1960. It is opened at certain times of the year for touring and for private parties. (<http://www.dunsmuir-hellman.com/>)



Dunsmuir-Hellman House

* Henry Huntington was the nephew and heir to his uncle, Collis P. Huntington. Collis was one of the "Big Four" who built the Central Pacific Railroad, the western half of the Transcontinental Railroad which became the Southern Pacific Railroad.

New Board Member ~ Charlotte "Charly" Taylor

I was born and raised in Los Gatos, CA. I attended UC Santa Barbara with a double major in Spanish and Hispanic Civilization and a minor in French. I also studied in Madrid, Spain and Mexico City, as well as taught in Medellín, Colombia. My career began as a Spanish and French middle school teacher. Then I changed paths and became a travel agent. I eventually went back to teaching and taught Spanish at Campolindo High School in Moraga for 24 years. I retired in 2015 but still substitute teach and do private tutoring in Spanish.

My husband, Russ, and I have been married 46 years, and we have a daughter, Kristina. Russ was an attorney and worked in real estate development before his retirement. His passion is music, and he is on the board of Living Jazz. We have lived in Oakland our entire married life.

My volunteer life has ebbed and flowed depending on my work schedule. The most consistent volunteer involvement has been with Piedmont Community Church where I have been a deacon, a trustee, and president of the church. My major new volunteer work is at Castlemont High School in Oakland where I work with newcomer students, recent immigrants from Central America and Mexico in their English class. I am also very involved with We and Our Neighbors, a women's club in San Jose. My great grandmother was a founding member 125 years ago, and we have a clubhouse that is 107 years old.

As you can see, I treasure maintaining history knowing it is important to make the community aware of the existence of historical structures, the stories that go with them and finding effective ways to fund the on-going life of the structure and its mission. As with PHM, We and Our Neighbors club keeps itself alive by rentals and special fundraising events. We actually changed our name <http://www.sanjoseclubhouse.com> to attract more rentals.

I hope to get involved in the teas and perhaps working with the team that plans special events as we have found some interesting ways to attract people into the We and Our Neighbors / San Jose Clubhouse.

Pardee Historic Home Museum Receives Grant from United Airlines



Left to right: Cynthia Foster, Patricia Underwood, Joann Anderson, Dawn Muller
The Pardee Home is renowned for its magnificent teas, orchestrated by the all-volunteer "Tea Committee." One of the members of the tea committee, Patricia Underwood, is employed by United Airlines, which encourages its employees to volunteer for non-profit organizations. On behalf of the Pardee Home, Patricia applied for a "United Volunteer Impact Grant," which United awarded to the Pardee Home in the amount of \$1,000.00 Pictured are Cynthia Foster, Pardee Board Chair, presenting the check to Dawn Muller, head of the Tea Committee while Patricia Underwood and Joann Anderson, another member of the committee, look on. The presentation was made during a tea in the Pardee Home dining room.

Stanley Stidham

We are sad to announce that Stanley Stidham, one of the original Board Members of the Pardee Home Museum and a good friend of the Pardee family, passed away on April 4, 2017.

A Memorial service was held for him on Saturday, May 13 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland. He had long been a valued member of this congregation.

~ Stan will be missed ~

New Board Member ~ Gloria Taylor

Gloria Taylor is a longtime community advocate with many years of experience working to improve the health and welfare of families in the East Bay. Trained in public health, she spent the early career making home visits in Oakland and surrounding cities providing hands one health education and care.

After leaving Public Health she became an independent management consultant where her specialty was working with community based agencies. She has decades of community volunteer work; whether serving as the California president of the nationally renowned American Association of University Women or in building a volunteer program to improve the reading opportunities of children in an Oakland school.

She has volunteered for roles too numerous to recount; was President of the Board of Directors for A Safe Place, YWCA, Vice President of Calico and Board member of such organizations as EdSource. She is currently serves on the Board of Directors for National Women's History Project, AAUW Berkeley Branch, and POWER. In 2011 Gloria was co-chair of the California Women's Centennial Celebration held at the state capitol celebrating 100 years of women in California getting the right to vote. Her interest and work with the National Women's History Project has fostered her interest in preservation and recognition of important historic events.

Gloria looks forward to offering her guidance and insights to the Pardee Museum board.

Erika Mailman to Visit PHM

Save the date of Friday, October 27 from 6:00-9:00pm when a favorite local author to comes to PHM to discuss her two latest books, one of which is set in the Pardee mansion (you can see it at <http://amzn.to/2sGz7VH>) – *House of Bellaver*. The other book she will discuss is a Lizzie Borden novel called *The Murderer's Maid*.

Erika worked with the Oakland Tribune as one of the columnists and also with PHM when she helped David Nicolai edit *The Cupola*. She has written several other novels in the last few years.

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The Cupola

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The Pardee Historic Home Museum, Inc. is a private non-profit organization originally established in 1981 as the Pardee Home Foundation to preserve, interpret, and keep the historic home and gardens of the Pardee family open to the public.

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Recent Past Events of the Pardee Home Museum

On the weekend of March 4th and 5th, 2017 the Old Mint became a pop-up museum of San Francisco history featuring more than 75 exhibitors, including the Pardee Home Museum, at the **San Francisco History Days at the Old Mint**. Historians, archivists, genealogists, archaeologists, researchers, educators, re-enactors and other history enthusiasts gathered for a free Community Open House at this historic site. PHM Board member **Cherie Donahue** and Docent **Nancy Henn** can be seen behind our table in the photo on the left.

On June 17 we had another Pardee Carriage House Salon - Learning the Secrets of Oakland's Historic House Museums - A Virtual Tour (see photo on the right). Oakland historians **Annalee Allen** and **Gene Anderson** gave a very interesting talk about the architecture, interiors and pictures of the early Oaklanders and their homes – Pardee Home, Cohen Bray House, Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate, Peralta Hacienda and the Cameron-Stanford House.

