



The Cupola

Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

Fall / Winter 2014

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

Governor George Pardee & President Theodore Roosevelt: Preservation of Yosemite

By Ronald Bachman

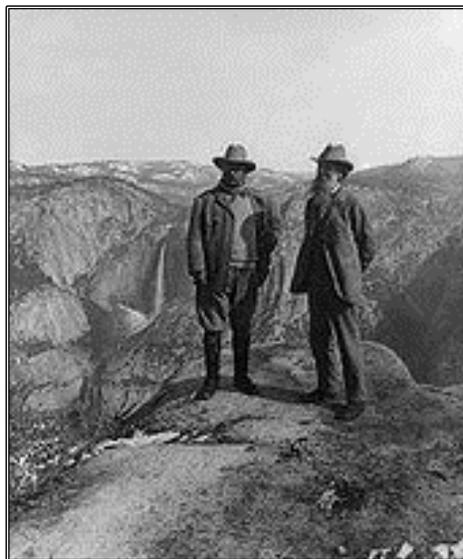
We are currently celebrating the 150th year of the Yosemite Grant Act (1864-2014). When President Abraham Lincoln signed this document it established and protected Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove. It was the first land grant to protect wild lands for the people and the first California State Park. Congressional approval of this act was overshadowed by the Civil War. At this time George Pardee was only 7 years old living in San Francisco with his parents, Enoch and Mary. [Editor's Note: George is rumored to have met President Lincoln around this time and even to have sat on his lap!]

Let us now "fast-forward" to the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) who assumed the presidency after the assassination of President William McKinley. Prior to his reelection in 1904 he asked Governor George Pardee to be his Vice Presidential running mate. It is not certain when they first met and became friends, but they had similar political philosophies and were considered Progressive Republicans. They both fought for corporate regulation (including the Railroad) and conservation.

George declined to be Roosevelt's running mate in favor of completing his term as Governor of California (1903-1907). Also, it is likely that politically savvy George knew that being Vice President was a wasteland for politicians. After all,

who ever heard of Charles Fairbanks who became Roosevelt's Vice President and sought out the presidency when TR declined to run for a third term and gave his nod to William Howard Taft.

Governor Pardee hosted President Roosevelt in 1903 and travelled with him to Yosemite to meet John Muir. The president insisted on a 3-day camping trip alone with Muir near Glacier Point. It was on this trip that Muir convinced the president that the United States should take complete control of Yosemite. This occurred and on June 11, 1906, the USA took control of the valley and the grove. This was the first step in Yosemite becoming a large National Park and could not have happened until California returned the Valley to the Federal Government. It was Governor George Pardee who signed the bill ceding Yosemite back to the United States.



Teddy Roosevelt & John Muir in Yosemite 1903

George and Teddy were such good friends that Pardee was selected to officially travel to Oyster Bay on Long Island Sound to Roosevelt's Sagamore Hill Estate to present him with his Republican Party's nomination for President.

The friendship between Pardee and Roosevelt, and Muir and Roosevelt led to the preservation of one of the wonders of California.



Theodore Roosevelt accepting the Republican Party nomination for President from Gov. George Pardee at Sagamore Hill

You might also be interested in a related Cupola Article, The Yosemite Chandelier, in the Fall/Winter 2012 Cupola which can be accessed from the Pardee Home Museum Website ([pardeehome.org/Pardee Newsletter - Fall Winter 2012.pdf](http://pardeehome.org/Pardee%20Newsletter%20-%20Fall%20Winter%202012.pdf)).



POWER Event

by Richelle Lieberman

On Saturday, September 13, 2014 Progressive Oakland Women for Empowerment and Reform (POWER) held their 3rd annual Delilah Beasley Tea in the gardens of the Pardee Home Museum. Almost 150 people came to celebrate this year's honoree, Angela Glover Blackwell, founder and CEO of PolicyLink. The Pardee house has been the venue of all three teas. As always, many attendees remarked about the beauty of the house and gardens.



Angela Glover Blackwell

Mistress of Ceremonies, Journalist, Brenda Payton Jones introduced speakers who paid tribute to the life work of Delilah Beasley (1871 – 1934) who was the first African American woman to have her own column in a metropolitan mainstream paper - The Oakland Tribune. A weekly feature, written by Beasley told of the social activities of the day in the black community. Dr. Kimberly Phillips, provost of Mills College, spoke about other contributions of Ms. Beasley. As a historian, Beasley had the distinction of being the first person to have presented written proof of the existence of California black pioneers, in her writings, *Slavery in California* (1918) and her classic, *The Negro Trail-Blazers of California* (1919), a pioneering work in the field of California black history. A musical performance was featured, attendees sipped tea furnished by NUMI tea and enjoyed pastries given by local bakery SemiFreddi, plus savory finger sandwiches and pastries galore! The weather was

perfect and a wonderful time was had by all!

Plans are already under way for the 4th annual tea and the woman of POWER are very pleased to have this "tradition" with the Pardee House Museum.

For information regarding POWER events call Richelle Lieberman at (510) 381-1973.

~~~~~

### Introducing New Board Member John Matzger

John was born and brought up in San Francisco. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and spent his junior year at the London School of Economics. He earned his law degree from Boalt Law School at UC Berkeley. John then worked as a public defender for Alameda County before he went into private law practice.

Then John's life took a turn into the carnation flower business in Colombia. For seventeen years he was the president of a carnation flower growing operation that was a joint venture with a Japanese group.

John is married to Valerie and they have two adult children and one grandchild. John and Valerie have both been dedicated volunteers in many areas. A few of John's volunteer activities include the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation in the Fruitvale district. Here he was a volunteer attorney and helped to develop training programs for youth and adults. After he retired John tutored four mornings a week at the Jefferson Elementary School. The Multicultural Institute, a Franciscan organization helping immigrants is another place where John has given his time and talents.

The Pardee Home Museum is fortunate to have John join us in maintaining and preserving this historic gem in Oakland.

## Gov. George Pardee at Oakland City Hall in 2014!

On October 25, 2014 Gov. George Pardee returned to the Oakland City Hall as part of the building's Centennial Celebrations. The Alameda County Historical Society (ACHS) event began with Annalee Allen, Tribune columnist and PHM volunteer who gave an interesting tour of the building. Then, while we were in the City Council Chambers, Gov. Pardee entered.

Dennis Evanosky, local historian, ACHS Quarterly editor and PHM Docent, in the role of Gov. George Pardee, the "Earthquake Governor", spoke about the Governor's friend Frank K. Mott, known as "the Mayor who built Oakland." Mott was the Mayor at the time of the Earthquake.

Gov. Pardee immediately came back to the San Francisco Bay Area to help out during this time of emergency. As he had rented out his house to someone he stayed in the Oakland City Hall (the prior or 3<sup>rd</sup> City Hall of Oakland) for a few days until his wife, Helen, found out. She insisted he move to a hotel which is exactly what he did (of course!).



Gov. George Pardee (AKA Dennis Evanosky)

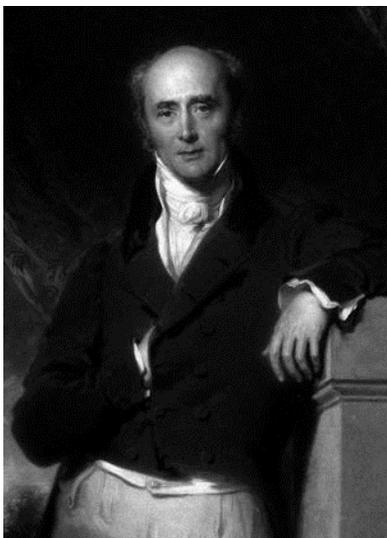
### Save That Date!

The 8<sup>th</sup> Public Ghost Investigation at PHM will be on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 7pm.

## Happy Birthday, Earl Grey!

By Cynthia Foster

2014 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Grey, who was born at Howick Hall, the family estate in Northumberland, England. Although Grey, who was Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834, authored the Great Reform Bill of 1832 and oversaw the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, is most known today for the tea that carries his name. According to family lore, the blend of black China tea and oil extracted from the bergamot orange was developed by a Chinese senior official for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl (the bergamot oil was used to offset the flavor of limestone in the water from the well at Howick). Lady Grey, the earl's wife, made the tea popular in London.



Charles Grey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Grey

It is not certain which company first produced and sold Earl Grey tea. Twinings claims that it first made the blend in 1831 at Grey's request, whereas Jacksons of Piccadilly contends that the Earl gave it the recipe in 1830.



Earl Grey Tea

Although tea was consumed in China before the common era, tea

was not known in Britain until the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, when it was imported from China and became fashionable among royalty and the upper classes. It remained too expensive for the rest of the population until the duty was cut in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and tea became more affordable.

In 1773, the East India Company was granted permission to export tea to the colonies in America. Three ships carrying cargos of tea landed in Boston in November, 1773, where they were met by angry colonists protesting the British rule through tea taxes. On December 16, all 342 chests of tea were dumped in Boston harbor in the Boston "Tea Party."

It is said that the 7<sup>th</sup> Duchess of Bedford, a friend of Queen Victoria, created afternoon tea to fill the time between lunch and dinner in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Working classes later had the afternoon tea as their evening meal.



Anna Russell, 7<sup>th</sup> Duchess of Bedford

According to Britain magazine, the top 10 places for tea in the UK are: Howick Hall, the birthplace of both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Grey and Earl Grey tea, Fortnum & Mason, the Goring Hotel, The Ritz London, Twinings, Davenport Tea Room, the Montague Arms, Betty's Café Tea Rooms, Camellia's Tea House and Tisanes Tea Rooms. Friends of the Pardee Home Museum know that the top place for a Tea in the US is the Pardee Home Museum.



## Membership Application

**YES!** I want to become a member of the Pardee Home Museum.

- Student \$15
- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Benefactor \$75
- Patron \$100 - \$249
- Sustaining \$250 - \$499
- Sponsor \$500 - \$999
- Visionary \$1,000 & up

New Member     Renewing

Please make check payable to  
**Pardee Home Foundation**  
and mail to

**Pardee Home Museum**  
672 11<sup>th</sup> St,  
Oakland, CA 94607-3651

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

---

1<sup>st</sup> Member's Name (or Gift Name)

---

2<sup>nd</sup> Member's Name (if applicable)

---

Address

---

City                      State                      Zip

---

Home Phone                      Work Phone

---

E-mail

**Thank You for your Help!**



Pardee Home Museum  
672 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-3651



Place  
adequate  
Postage  
Here

### The Cupola

is published by the Pardee Home Museum  
672 11th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-3651  
Phone: (510) 444-2187  
Email: [office@pardeehome.org](mailto:office@pardeehome.org)

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

#### Pardee Home Foundation Trustees

Cynthia Foster, Chair, Trustee  
Darlene Dawson, Vice Chair, Trustee  
Kay Cheatham, Secretary, Trustee  
Sue Coffin, Treasurer, Trustee  
Ron Pardee Nielson, Life Trustee  
Stan Stidham, Life Trustee  
Ron Bachman, Trustee  
Sue Coffin, Trustee  
Cherie Donahue, Trustee  
Katy Foulkes, Trustee  
Lisa Gerstacker, Trustee  
Michael Henn, Trustee  
John Matzger, Trustee  
Russell Nelson, Trustee  
Paul Silberstein, Trustee

Karen Silberstein, Acting Secretary  
Russell Nelson, Editor & Newsletter Production

**Please Deliver Quickly - Time Sensitive Material**

Here is a letter that Gov. George Pardee sent to Ron Pardee Nielson's mother, Augusta, and her brother Jimmy in the early 1920's. Ron, one of our lifetime Trustees, is a Pardee whose family is more closely related to the Mary Pardee's (George's grandmother) side of the family than to Enoch Pardee (George's grandfather). All of the relatives (Pardees, Banghams and Cadys) lived in Susanville, 90 miles west of Reno.

**Dear Augusta and Dear Jimmy,**

**You know, that Christmas tree you sent us was just a dandy – better'n any Christmas tree anybody else had, bar none. It just fitted into the big bay window in our dining room – you know how big it is. And when we got it – the tree, not the window, you know – all lighted up with electric lights and spangles and things, it sure was the real, real thing in Christmas trees. Everybody who saw it – and a lot of people did – they all wanted to know where we got it – and we, of course, swelled with pride and told'em. You know, we kept that tree, all lighted up, every evening, most of January, until the needles had pretty much all fallen off. And we were mighty sorry that all the Susanville Pardees and Banghams and Cadys, big and little, could have seen it in its glory, and gotten a present from it, as they would have, had they been here – it's their fault that they weren't here and didn't get'em, wasn't it, now?**

**Anyhow, it was mighty good of you both to make our Christmas perfect by sending us that tree. You ought to have heard us brag about it, and heard our friends exclaim about it!**

**With love to you both and to all the Susanville Tribe, including, of course, even your "more or less respected" Gran'pa Pardee,**

**The Oakland Pardees**

At the Pardee Home Museum, we will again be decorating our Christmas Tree and will place it in the same location the Pardee Family did as part of their yearly tradition. Please stop by for a tour to relive some of this holiday cheer from one of Oakland's most famous families.