



The Cupola

Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

Spring / Summer 2013

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

A MOST ATYPICAL GOLD MINER, Enoch Pardee (1827-1896)

By Ron Bachman



Enoch Pardee (ca. 1880)

In 1851 Enoch Pardee abruptly halted his self-training to become a physician and joined the male population surge to California to “see the elephant” (see article later in this newsletter). The excitement of being part of the Gold Rush was likened to a child seeing the elephants at a circus. Up to this time Enoch had spent his life in the North East part of the USA (Ohio and Michigan). As a teenager he suffered Egyptian Ophthalmia (now called Trachoma), a serious eye disorder that could have left him blind. He was cured by a Dr. James Bigelow which led to Enoch’s decision to become an Oculist (now called an Ophthalmologist).

The lure and excitement of the Gold Rush was probably the only thing that could have interrupted his medical studies. He left New York City by ship in late 1851. He had chosen the fastest route to California (two months), but probably the most dangerous. He would sail to the city of Chagres on the east coast of the Isthmus of Panama then take a canoe 50 miles on the swift and dangerous Chagres River making every attempt to avoid capsizing and robbers. He was also fortunate to avoid Chagres Fever (Yellow Fever transmitted by mosquitoes).

A steep and dangerous 25 mile descent from the city of Gorgona to

Panama City followed the dangerous river travel. Pack mules and the hikers frequently had serious and sometimes fatal falls.

Arriving in San Francisco in 1852, he immediately left for Long Bar, California, on the Feather River. He did placer mining probably panning by himself or using a rocker or Long Tom teaming up with a small group of other miners. He survived an epidemic of cholera and participated in the treatment of others with the disease. He also avoided typhoid and dysentery which were common

Unlike the majority of other gold miners, Enoch was able to save \$10,000 (equivalent to about \$250,000 in 2013 dollars) in one year on the Yuba. He then left and opened his medical practice in San Francisco as an Oculist and Aurist (Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat – EENT). This fortune allowed Enoch to begin his life in San Francisco – marriage, family, medical practice, and, ultimately, politics.

Now let’s put Enoch’s story into the historical context of the Gold Rush and the history of California. It has only been 164 years since James Marshall discovered gold, but our State had been inhabited for thousands of years before this by Native Americans.

When Enoch and the other miners arrived in San Francisco, they had to purchase the clothes and equipment needed: a gold pan, pick and shovel, boots, and perhaps “waist overalls” (early name for Levi’s). Prices were inflated and a pair of boots cost one ounce of gold that was then valued at \$16 (\$320 in 2013’s dollars).

In the Gold Country Enoch was fortunate to be a “White Anglo Saxon Protestant” of American heritage. He did not face the foreign miner’s tax which began in 1851 to dissuade

foreigners and favor Americans. The \$20 per month tax was more than most miners earned in a month of “panning”. This tax was reduced to \$3 per month in 1852. This was probably done since saloons, gambling halls and pleasure palaces were suffering because the miners had no surplus money.

Enoch also did not suffer the physical intimidation and the bigotry that the Native Americans, Chinese, Mexicans, South Americans and persons of African descent did. The Chinese frequently were forced to mine only at abandoned sites and, by hard work, made these profitable. Many Mexicans and South Americans returned home to seek their fortunes in gold mining there. Persons of African descent were few in number and probably made up less than 1% of gold miners, but did have a presence (Nigger Hill and Arroyos de los Negros).

Enoch was truly an atypical miner in that he made a small fortune in placer mining and survived the diseases that were so common (cholera and typhoid). One in five miners died by disease, accidents, or homicide and only one in 12 had any success in placer mining. He also was fortunate to leave with his profits after one year since placer mining by an individual or small groups ended in 1854. Enoch was truly an “atypical gold miner”.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Thursday, July 4, Noon to 4pm: Our traditional family event filled with food, music and fun.

Sunday, September 15, 2 - 4:30pm: P.O.W.E.R. Presents the 2nd Annual Ms Delilah Beasley Tea.

Saturday, September 28, 7pm - 12am: The 6th PHM Ghost Investigation.

Sunday, September 29, 10:30 - 2pm: Waffle Brunch and Garden Concert.

SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY IN GARDEN A HUGE SUCCESS

On a beautiful April afternoon the Pardee Home volunteers hosted a spectacular tea for thirty friends and family of a very appreciative eighteen-year-old girl from San Leandro. Tables were set with china for a garden tea prepared and served by members of our tea committee under a shady oak in front of the carriage house.



The surprise birthday party girl wore a vintage pink fifties prom dress. Her mother and sisters arranged this celebration because she had always wanted to have a big tea party and she is graduating from high school and studying at UC in the Fall. Two tables were filled with high school friends; the boys particularly loved the "sushi" sandwiches (smoked salmon), and all raved about every course. Extended family of every age filled the other five tables. Several commented that, as high tea fans, they found the PHM tea delicacies the very best and intend to reserve a Dining Room Tea immediately.



Thanks to the efforts of several green-thumbed volunteers who have renewed the plantings and developed some fabulous new garden areas; and the constant attention and meticulous manicuring of our caretaker, Jose Rivera, the grounds look fabulous! Call our events coordinator to discuss large event planning, weddings, birthdays, musical programs, art and theater events, both indoors and out.

NEW DOCENT – CYNTHIA FOSTER

Cynthia was born in Utica, New York and was brought up in Clinton, New Jersey. Her lifelong interest in history brought her to the Pardee Home Museum.

This interest goes back to her childhood. Family discussions often centered on family history as well as United States and world history. Cynthia graduated from Wells College with a major in history. She was wondering what next when a judge offered her a summer job and then suggested law school. She attended the University of Virginia law school and then went to Washington D.C. to begin her career working for the chief counsel of the IRS. That is where she met her future husband. They married and transferred with the IRS to San Francisco. They moved to Piedmont and raised two children.

Along the way Cynthia and her husband became seriously interested in antique silver. Their interest in silver also gave them a good reason to return to England each year. Soon their hobby became a business. They started a catalogue business, "The Leopard's Head", in antique silver and sold at shows. Eventually they partnered with a shop on Union Street in San Francisco called "Argentum – The Leopard's Head". They closed their business in 2011 and Cynthia retired from the IRS in 2012.

The Pardee Home Museum is fortunate to have Cynthia as a volunteer where she serves as a docent and as secretary to the board of trustees. Plus she is always willing to help with extras.

SHADY ACTIVITY AT PHM

Hans Boerner, owner of **Alcatraz Shade Shop**, has generously donated his skills and materials to the PHM windows. All of the shades in the house have been beautifully restored to working order or replaced by Mr. Boerner. We wish to publicly thank our wonderful benefactor.

We hope all the friends and supporters of the museum will take their window covering business to Mr. Hans Boerner at **Alcatraz Shade Shop** at Alcatraz and Telegraph Avenues. Their website is:

<http://www.alcatrazshade.com/>

YELP RAVES FOR PARDEE TEA

Pardee Home Museum tours and teas have been very favorably rated on *Yelp*, the website that allows customers to rate their experiences. Fifteen guests have taken the time to write very positive and even lengthy reviews of their tours and teas. Nearly all the reviewers have given the PHM experience five stars!

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/pardee-home-museum-oakland>

The following comments are taken from the *Yelp* reviews. "We have done many activities in Oakland during the 23 yrs we have lived here, and PARDEE IS THE BEST. It's amazing that we have this local treasure right in our own backyard, and so few people know about it." An additional writer shared her thoughts. "Magnificent High Tea (a bargain!) AND a fun tour! We have had high tea all over the West Coast. Pardee's is the best, and what a bargain! \$25 gives you a private, luscious tea with superior savories and pastries (all baked by the volunteers), and afterwards a guided tour of this quaint, charming Old California home."



The excerpts from *Yelp* give an insight into the popularity of PHM teas and tours. We have a unique setting and an unusually talented and devoted tea committee that pride themselves on the quality of the food and the presentation of the table including linens, flowers, china and silver. Visit PHM on *Yelp* to read for yourself the extent that our guests are enjoying themselves.

Before the nice weather disappears, consider scheduling a tea for 20-50 in the Pardee garden. Tables are covered in floral cloths, vases of fresh flowers adorn the tops while tea is served by the PHM volunteers. Organization meetings and birthday parties have been held very successfully in the garden. Call 510-444-2187 to reserve the garden for your special occasion.

FILOLI FIELD TRIP, MAY 3, 2013

A field trip to Filoli Home & Gardens (<http://www.filoli.org/>), in Woodside was organized by PHM Trustees Darlene Dawson and Ron Bachman for all Pardee volunteers. Located thirty miles south of San Francisco, Filoli was completed in 1917 for William Bowers Bourn II and his wife Agnes Moody Bourn, prominent San Franciscans whose chief source of wealth was the Empire Mine in Grass Valley. Mr. Bourn was also owner and president of the Spring Valley Water Company. He arrived at the unusual name of Filoli by combining the first two letters from the key words of his credo: "Fight for a just cause; Love your fellow man; Live a good life".

The mansion has forty-three rooms and seventeen fireplaces. The house was purchased in 1937 by the William P. Roth family, owners of Matson Navigation Co. They ultimately donated the house and garden to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975. The house is surrounded by sixteen acres of formal gardens. Filoli provides an inspiring vision of a new Eden with bountiful land, plentiful resources and an emphasis on self-sufficiency.

This field trip was in keeping with the Pardee volunteer tradition of an educational enrichment outing each year. The first was by train to Sacramento and visiting the capital, the governor's mansion and the Stanford Home. The following year the volunteers visited the John Muir Home & Museum in Martinez. This year the group met for lunch on the patio of Filoli before touring the Home & Gardens with very knowledgeable docents.

The museum is always looking for capable volunteers who enjoy spending time in a beautiful historic house performing such important work as leading guided tours, hosting special events, cataloging historical articles, gardening, etc. We are also interested in recruiting qualified candidates for our board. You, too, can then join us on our upcoming trips like this last one to Filoli.

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**"SEEING THE ELEPHANT"**

(Adapted from January 2002 Cupola)



*'A man spake these words, and said: I am a miner, wandering "from away down east," to sojourn in a strange land. And behold I've seen the elephant, yea, verily, I saw him, and bear witness, that from the key of his trunk to the end of his tail, his whole body hath passed before me; and I followed him until his huge feet stood before a clapboard shanty; then with his trunk extended he pointed to a candle-card tacked upon a shingle, as though he would say Read, and I read **The Miner's Ten Commandments.**'*

In 1854 Enoch mailed to his future wife, Mary, a letter written on the reverse side of the popular document "The Miner's Ten Commandments." (<http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist7/tencom.html>)

To forty-niners and those following, no expression characterized the California gold rush more than the words "Seeing the Elephant." Those planning to travel west announced they were "going to see the elephant." Those turning back claimed they had seen "the elephant tracks" or "the elephant's tail", and confessed they'd seen more than enough of the animal.

The expression predated the gold rush, arising from a tale current when circus parades first featured elephants. A farmer, so the story went, hearing that a circus was in town, loaded his wagon with vegetables for the market there. He had never seen an elephant and very much wished to. On the way to town he encountered the circus parade led by an elephant. The farmer was thrilled. His horses, however, were terrified. Bolting, they overturned the wagon and ruined the vegetables. "I don't give a hang," the farmer said, "for I have seen the elephant."

For gold rushers, the elephant symbolized the high cost of their endeavor, an unequalled experience and the adventure of a lifetime.



**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!**



## FAMILY FUN ON JULY FOURTH!

Pardee Home Museum will host its annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Day from 12 - 4:00pm on Thursday, July 4.

A highlight will be the return of Frederick Hodges and Ann Gibson who will provide music in the shaded back garden amid tables and chairs for our guests.

A barbeque of burgers and hotdogs, freshly boiled corn on the cob and many other tasty treats will be served. Also, guests will be able to enjoy lawn games of badminton and croquet. A table will be available with activities geared to the children plus a raffle of prizes will be held. In addition, tours of the interior of the Pardee Home will be available by our volunteer docents for an additional \$5/person.

This is a great opportunity for the Pardee friends and neighbors to celebrate July Fourth at our historic home. Please call **510-832-3456** to make reservations or simply show up at our Carriage House entrance on 12<sup>th</sup> St. Prices are \$15 for Adults, \$5 for those 5-18 years old and Free for children under 5.

For additional information as we get closer to the Family Fun Day, check the Pardee Home Museum website at [www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org)

### SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 29, 2013 from 10:30am – 2:00pm

#### GARDEN WAFFLE BRUNCH

Music by Oakland Technical High School Jazz Ensemble

Adults: \$25.00

(Reduced prices for children 12 & under)

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



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### The Cupola

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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.

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