



The Cupola

Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

Fall / Winter 2015

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

MAYORAL PALS

George Pardee (1857-1941) and Francis (Frank) Mott (1866-1958)

By Ron Bachman

It can be said that Mayor Pardee paved the way for Francis Mott to become Oakland's Mayor from 1905-1915 and become known as "the man who built Oakland". In 1895 Mayor Pardee appointed Mott to a vacancy in the City Council and he was reelected to this position in 1897, 1899, and 1905. In that year he successfully ran for Mayor and was elected.



Mayor George Pardee



Mayor Frank Mott

Could it be that Pardee was repaying a favor to Mott for his help during the 1893 countrywide depression with 20-30% unemployment? A large group of unemployed men, led by Jacob Coxey, set out from the mid-west to stage a protest march on Washington, D.C. to encourage the government to make more jobs available by investing in Federal. This group of marchers was known as Coxey's Army.

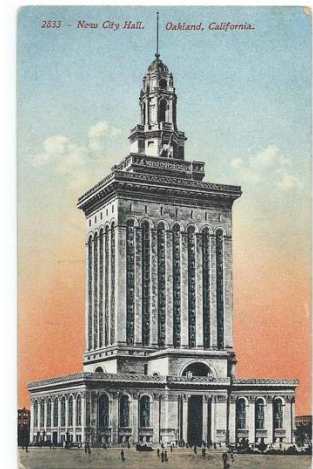
A smaller group started out from San Francisco under the leadership of General Charles Kelly (a branch of Coxey's Army, but was called Kelly's Army). Before this group of about 1,500 men left SF, they petitioned the Mayor Levi Ellert for money. He provided only enough funds for their ferryboat ride to Oakland. This raised the ire of Mayor Pardee who was heard by some to say, "Let's get these hobos out of Oakland".

Mott opened his hardware store to provide weapons (wooden spokes) Armed with these spokes, civic leaders escorted the "hobos" to a waiting train to continue their eastern trek. Was this the favor that Mott did for Pardee?

After Mott's multiple elections to the Oakland City Council, he became Mayor from 1905-1915 and had many accomplishments:

- Acquired the Port of Oakland from the Southern Pacific Railroad. Oakland had been attempting to do this for over 50 years. The Port was originally owned by its first Mayor, Horace Carpentier, who purchased it from the city of Oakland for \$5 and the building of a schoolroom. In 1868 the city thought that it would be returned to them by Carpentier. Instead he sold it to the Southern Pacific Railroad for a large amount of money and a seat on its Board.
- After the April 1906 earthquake Mott became known as the "Earthquake Mayor" while Pardee became known as the "Earthquake Governor". Both were involved in the evacuation of SF residents to Oakland and seeing to the housing, feeding, and care for all of Oakland's new citizens. Oakland's population doubled after the earthquake to 150,000.
- Built Lake Merritt's first boathouse and also the Pergola on the north end of the Lake. Also cleaned up the Lake enough to allow swimming.
- Oakland's nearby townships were incorporated into Oakland: Claremont, Fruit Vale (now Fruitvale), Leona Heights, Elmhurst, and more. In 1907 Piedmont was almost incorporated into Oakland, losing only by ten votes of Piedmont's residents.
- Built Oakland's current City. The cornerstone was laid in 1909 with

Mayor Mott and President William Taft present. City Hall was known as Mott's Wedding Cake because he was engaged to be married and the top of the structure looked like the decoration on a wedding cake.



Oakland City Hall (c. 1912) (Also Known as Mott's Wedding Cake)

- The Oakland Civic Auditorium was built in 1915 (later known as the Kaiser Convention Center). Hotel Oakland was also built in this time.
- Established several parks such as Mosswood, Defremery, and Lakeside
- Converted the historic Camron-Stanford Home into the Oakland Public Museum (1910). Its collection became the nucleus of the History Gallery of the Oakland Museum of California when it opened in 1969.

This "Man who built Oakland" had very little formal education having dropped out of school at age 11 to support his family after his father died. He worked his way up from stock boy of the George S. Brown Hardware store to eventually become its owner (then known as the Frank K. Mott Hardware Store). There is no question that he was a successful businessman, but it was George Pardee who gave him the start for his successful political career.

Oakland Masonic Lodge No. 188 Hosts Grand Lodge of California at the Pardee Home Museum

On August 15 the Oakland Durant Rockridge Masonic Lodge No. 188 F&A welcomed the Grand Lodge of California at an event here to honor both Enoch and George Pardee. A social hour and tours began the event followed by a delicious dinner and talks by several of the Masonic dignitaries. Russ Charvonia, Grand Master of Masons in California gave the concluding talk.



Russ Charvonia, Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of California

The program for the event provided quite a bit of interesting information about both Enoch and George Pardee.:

Enoch Homer Pardee left Ohio in 1852 to head west eventually settling in San Francisco in 1866. Moving from the damp foggy weather, the family later settled in Oakland in 1869. He moved into politics and was elected to the State Assembly in 1871 and later became mayor of Oakland in 1876. A staunch abolitionist he counted President Abraham Lincoln amongst his friends. George went to DC with his father and remembered being bounced on President Lincoln's knee.

Enoch was a founding member of Oakland Lodge No. 188 as well as a founder of the First Unitarian Church in Oakland. His funeral was held at the Masonic Temple on 12th Street and Washington with his long time friend and Masonic brother Nathan Spaulding delivering the eulogy. George Pardee also was a member of the Oakland Lodge.

A year before George passed away, he visited his Masonic Lodge on his 83rd birthday and was heard to reminisce: "There is too much speed and spirit of unrest everywhere." He longed for the day sitting on his porch stoop talking to passersby about life, family and friends. We could say the same today!



Before (bottom) and After (Top) photos of Pardee Memorial

The Lodge presented PHM with a generous check for \$500 and a plaque commemorating Enoch and George. Prior to the Grand Master Dinner, members of the Lodge over saw the straightening and cleanup of the Pardee Memorial in Mountain View Cemetery.



Cynthia Foster, PHM Board Chairperson at Masonic Event



Masonic Dinner at the Pardee Home Museum

Other Recent Events at the Pardee Home Museum

Summer and fall were busy times for events at the Pardee House. The Garden was opened for the traditional 4th of July barbecue and early music program featuring Frederic Hodges and Anne Gibson. On July 11, the first wedding was held at the house. Vows were exchanged under a trellis set up in front of the Carriage House and the reception was held in the garden, with about 100 people attending.

On August 9, "Scenes from the Life of Julia Morgan" presented at the house. A sellout crowd of more than 40 participated in or listened to a reading of a play by Judith Offer and then enjoyed champagne punch and an hors d'oeuvre buffet.

On September 27, the fourth annual POWER tea was held in the garden. In addition, several large Garden Teas were held this summer and fall.

On October 17th we had our 9th Public Ghost Investigation. We have had many other private investigations but these public ones are always special. Karen Zimmerman and her group of hearty guides walk through the main house and carriage house. This time there were some recordings of someone talking and also one of the investigators had their hair pulled. Be sure to attend the next on (yet to be scheduled) if you want to get in on the action.

On November 1 we hosted the first in a series of lectures inviting the public's participation in "The Governor's Decorative Arts Guild."

The series began with: "Let there be light" which was moderated by curator Paul Motter, who gave a history of the evolution of lighting from Colonial American through Victorian and Edwardian times. Devices from candlesticks to kerosene lamps to the advent of electricity, with the original heirlooms belonging to the Pardee family, featured. The contents of this house, home to two Oakland mayors and a Governor of California, contains artifacts and decorative accessories from throughout the world. This ongoing series will feature other important pieces: art, antique furniture, silver, fine china, scrimshaw, and personal items (books, ephemera, letters.

Treasure Hunting at the Pardee Home Museum

On a cloudy Saturday Morning, Joseph Giacomo, his wife and two friends began a search of the rear yard of the Pardee Home Museum. They had three metal detectors; one that even had GPS capabilities.



Masato Kaida, Caroline Pegueros, Joseph Giacomo and Lenna Giacomo after Dig

Prior to their doing this work the board discussed whether or not this should be done. Our main concern was the underground piping for our sprinkler system that would not show up as they were all plastic. Joseph assured us they would be very careful and that they used special trowels while digging. This way they could remove the grass layer over a possible metal site and with a special pinpointing device dig the 6-8 inches to the metal bit their detector showed.

As the rear yard had been thoroughly dug up installing these pipes, the board also cautioned Joseph that his efforts might be for naught. Happily he and his crew went to work and found quite a few things. Many were rather uninteresting – nails and random metal bits but in the 3 hours they scan the yard they did find several pieces which, once cleaned up, should be quite interesting.

Probably the most exciting discovery was an old Trade Coin, likely from the early 20th Century. On one side it said 25 cents in large font and on the other indicated it could be used at a 14th Street store for Bar, Liquor and Cigars. Another intriguing piece was an old metal squeeze tube. It had some embossed writing on the top. Joseph's wife did some Googling and determined it was likely a 1922 era toothpaste tube with the brand coming from Brazil! Once these pieces are cleaned up, Joseph will give them back to PHM so we can display them.



Two sides of Octagonal Aluminum Trade Coin



Some of the other pieces found

Hopefully, in the next edition of the Cupola we will be able to show these items more clearly. They plan to return to continue their search so who knows what they will find? Joseph said it was very exciting being the first to search the grounds of PHM. An opportunity like this does not happen very frequently.

Annual Appeal Letter

Enclosed in this Cupola we have included our 2015 Appeal Letter. We hope you have enjoyed your times at the Pardee Home Museum and have found our various offerings including this Cupola something fun and useful.

Please take some time to read it and find out about some of the things we have accomplished this year. As you must know, we can only continue with your help. We receive nothing from Oakland, Alameda County or the State of California to defray the many expenses keeping an old house open and safe for the public.

Anything you can offer to help us continue will be gratefully received. Thank You!



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 Historic Home Museum
 and mail to

Pardee Home Museum
 672 11th St,
 Oakland, CA 94607-3651

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1st Member's Name (or Gift Name)

2nd Member's Name (if applicable)

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

E-mail

Thank You for your Help!



Pardee Home Museum
672 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607-3651



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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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Please Deliver Quickly - Time Sensitive Material

Tea Time

Pardee's Elegant Dining Room is Available for "Tea Time"

Teas are served in the elegant dining room of the Pardee Home Museum on an advanced reservation basis. The minimum number for a private tea is 6, maximum is 12.

The donation for High Tea is \$30.00 per person and for Dessert Tea \$20.00. A tour of the home is included. Because teas are prepared and served by a group of volunteers, a two-week advance reservation is requested. Please call 510-444-2187, or complete the [contact form](#) on the website, to make a reservation.

These special teas may be scheduled any day with an advance reservation (subject to availability). Even though our schedule is filled up for most of the rest of 2015, there are still a few dates available. Be sure to reserve your date for next year as they fill up fast.

