



The Cupola

The Newsletter
of the
Pardee Home Museum

Fall / Winter 2012

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

THE YOSEMITE CHANDELIER

By Ronald Bachman



As you enter the Pardee Home your attention is immediately drawn to a fixture hanging from the ceiling further back in the hallway. It has 6 large glass photographic images of Yosemite Valley. Each is signed by the photographer Carleton Watkins (1829-1916), considered to be the Ansel Adams of the 19th Century.



Carleton Watkins – Self Portrait

As a young man, Carleton came to California for the Gold Rush in 1851 via the Panama route. During his

travels he met Collis P. Huntington who later went on to be one of the “Big Four” of Transcontinental Railroad fame. At a later time Huntington did attempt to help Watkins with his career. After being unsuccessful at gold mining, Watkins took a job as an aide in a San Francisco portrait studio. In 1861 he began taking photographs and experimenting with various types of photography.

Although his photography covered the entire west, he soon specialized in the Yosemite Valley. He became familiar with this area after being asked to photograph the Mariposa Estate that had belonged to John C. Fremont. So overwhelmed with the beauty of Yosemite he decided he needed an equally large and new camera to do this.

He then created the “Mammoth Camera” which used 18x22 inch glass plates covered with a colloid emulsion of light sensitive silver salts coated onto the glass just before exposure. It must have taken a whole staff plus pack animals to move the camera, plates and chemicals to different locations in the Yosemite Valley and Mountains. During his career he created over 1200 plates, six of which are in the Pardee Home.

A group of his large Yosemite photographs were sent to Congress and President Lincoln in 1861. There was a pending bill to protect Yosemite Valley and put it under the protection of the State of California. Even with the Civil War in progress, Congress did pass this

law in 1864 and it was signed by President Lincoln.

When George Pardee became Governor of California (1903-1907), the aging Watkins was in poor physical health and also in debt. George attempted to have the State of California purchase his collection of over 1200 glass plate images in early 1906 for their preservation and to restore financial security to the photographer. In appreciation, Watkins and his son Collis (perhaps named for the help also given by Collis P. Huntington) gifted the Governor with six of the glass plates of Yosemite that had been treated to make the glass negatives a positive image.

Watkins’ collections of more than 1200 glass images were stored in his San Francisco studio. On April 18, 1906 at 5:15 AM the collection was totally destroyed by the earthquake and fire. As far as we know the six glass plates in the Pardee Home are the only ones that survived. Ironically these glass images were almost lost when the train returning the Governor Pardee’s household goods from Sacramento was derailed. Although some of the plates were cracked, they survive today at the Pardee Home in the Carleton Watkins Yosemite Chandelier.

RESERVE A TEA AT THE PARDEE HOME MUSEUM

We are currently booked up for December but get your reservations in for a special date in 2013. Everyone who has attended has given rave reviews about our Teas – some saying they are the best they have ever attended!

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEE: CHERIE DONAHUE

Cherie has a long family history with the PHM. Her great grandmother, Aura Prescott, was the modiste, or seamstress, for Helen Pardee and her four daughters. Most importantly, Aura designed, beaded and sewed the inaugural gown for Mrs. Pardee and the dresses for their four daughters when George Pardee was inaugurated governor of California.



Cherie with 2 Jackets made by her Great Grandmother, Aura

A close relationship developed between Cheri's mother, Joan Piper, and the two Pardee sisters Madeline and Helen who lived their entire lives in the Pardee family home. In fact, the sisters both remembered Cherie's mother in their wills. Cherie frequently visited Madeline and Helen with her mother. They were always served tea and cakes in the formal parlor by their helper Mary Malone. After tea Madeline and Helen enjoyed giving tours of the home accompanied with family stories. Cherie looks back on their visits with very fond memories. After the sisters passed away in 1980-1981, Cherie and her mother saved Wednesdays to help catalogue the items and collections at the Pardee home. Cherie worked on the

collections for about 10 years from 1982 to 1992.

In September, 2011 Cherie took a tour of the Pardee Home with Ron Pardee Nielson and decided it was time to be involved once again. She now contributes in many ways, including continuing work on the archives and cataloging, helping with teas and giving docent tours which always include stories of her times with Helen and Madeline.

As for Cherie's personal history, she was born in Oakland and has lived in Oakland her entire life. She attended Carl B. Munck Elementary School and now manages the school library. Cherie and her husband, Sherwood, were high school sweethearts at Skyline High School. They have one son.

Cherie spent 26 years caring for a paraplegic which made her always appreciative of her own life. At one time she enjoyed restoring Victorian homes. Camping, books and Oakland history have always been an important part of her life.

P.O.W.E.R. GARDEN PARTY BENEFITS GIRLS INC.

By Cherie Donahue

On a beautiful September 15th Saturday afternoon the **P**rogressive **O**akland **W**omen for **E**mpowerment & **R**eform (P.O.W.E.R.) celebrated the stellar career of historian and ground-breaking African-American journalist Delilah Beasley (1871-1934) with a fabulous formal tea and program in our gardens acknowledging the career and retirement of the incomparable Belva Davis.

The event was organized by Richelle Liebermann of P.O.W.E.R., to assist in donations for the building fund of Girls Inc. Speakers included Belva Davis, who detailed her impressive career in journalism that parallels that of Ms. Delilah Beasley's in an earlier era. Congresswoman Barbara Lee and politician Willie Brown also took the podium to praise Ms. Davis'

accomplishments and trade a few good-natured jibes. A display of character dolls from a current exhibit at the African-American Museum was set up on a table under the oak tree. The formal tablecloths, settings and decorations were exquisite; everyone expressed interest in repeating the event next year.



Belva Davis at the Podium



Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Willie Brown at the PHM

Note from Editor: During Willie Brown's speech at the P.O.W.E.R. event he commented about the Pardee Home Museum saying: "I didn't know this place existed. It is absolutely lovely!" Thank you Mr. Brown! We agree.

FALL EVENTS AT PHM

This Fall has been a busy and fun time at the Pardee Home Museum. Beginning with the P.O.W.E.R. Tea mentioned in the previous article we quickly moved into a musical mode with our Jazz Event on Saturday, Sept. 23rd. The Spirit of '29 Dixieland Jazz Band played in our garden area to an appreciative crowd. This very successful afternoon of music in the garden was chaired by John Nicoles and made a profit of almost \$1,500 for the Pardee Home Museum.



Spirit of '29 Dixieland Jazz Band



Deana Lyon and Ron Pardee Nielson at the beverage station

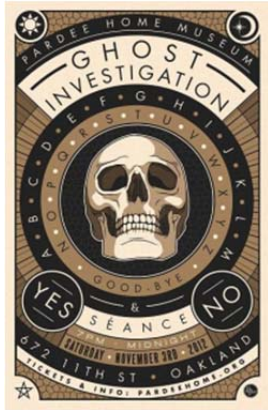
The next Saturday, September 29, PHM was one of the houses on the 5 Houses Bike Ride.



Kay Cheatham presenting at PHM for the bike group

This ride was the brainchild of Gene Anderson (Oakland Blogger - <http://oaklandlocal.com/>) and Annalee Allen, Tribune columnist and PHM volunteer. The event, sponsored by East Bay Bike Coalition, began at the Peralta Hacienda, and continued to the Cohen Bray House, the Camron Stanford House, Preservation Park, the Pardee Home, concluding at the DeFremery House.

Finally, on November 3rd we had our 4th Public Ghost Investigation. Rich Black, a local graphic designer (www.rblack.org) donated the beautiful poster to advertise our event. Thanks Rich!



His work can also be seen in the posters and Aurora Theater artwork for Shotgun Players in Berkeley (<http://shotgunplayers.org>) and for the 2013 season of San Diego Opera (www.sdopera.com/Experience/RBlack).

PHM TOFFEE – RAVE REVIEWS!

Pardee Home Museum volunteers have been making English toffee for our teas to rave reviews. As a result of the interest in this delicious, homemade candy, the toffee will be available in our Poppy Gift Shop. The recipe comes from Cherie Donahue, our newest Trustee whose great grandmother was seamstress to George Pardee's family. PHM English toffee would make a lovely hostess gift! This delectable confection will be packaged with ribbons appropriate for holiday giving. Plan to stop by the home during regularly scheduled tours and buy PHM toffee for the holidays.



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 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!



THE PERFECT GIFT

As Christmas, Hanukkah, Valentine's Day and other special occasions approach, consider purchasing a tour and tea at the Pardee Home Museum. We offer both a dessert tea and a high tea which includes a savory course. Teas take place in the PHM historic dining room where the governor and his family routinely ate. The PHM teas are outstanding and are gaining a reputation as one of the finest teas in the Bay Area. It is a special event that your loved one will long remember. All teas must be scheduled by calling 510-444-2187, and require a minimum of 4 guests and a maximum of 12. Rates are due to increase, so book soon to obtain the dessert tea at \$15 and high tea at \$25. Both prices include a home tour if desired.

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM GIFT CERTIFICATE

This entitles _____ to a tour of the home and a _____ tea.

This certificate can be activated by purchasing and scheduling a tea at the Pardee Home Museum. Please call us at 510-444-2187 and we will be happy to arrange this for you.



Best Wishes for the Holidays from your friends at the Pardee Home Museum

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

The Cupola

is published by the Pardee Home Museum
672 11th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-3651
Phone: (510) 444-2187
Email: 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

Kay Cheatham, Chair
Russell Nelson, Vice Chair
Marianne Robison, Treasurer
Sue Coffin, Secretary
Ron Pardee Nielson, Life Trustee
Stan Stidham, Life Trustee
Ron Bachman
Cherie Donahue
Darlene Dawson
Katy Foulkes
Lisa Gerstacker
John Nicoles
Paul Silberstein

Patsy Fitzpatrick, Office Manager
Van Lam and Ethyl Lee Miller, Newsletter Distribution
Russell Nelson, Editor & Newsletter Production

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1071
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Address Service Requested

Please Deliver Quickly - Time Sensitive Material