



# The Cupola

The Newsletter  
Of the  
Pardee Home Museum

Spring / Summer 2010

Oakland City Landmark  
1975

National Register of Historical Places  
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark  
1985

California Historic Landmark  
1998

## The Practitioners Pardee

### Part 1: Enoch Pardee

By Ronald Bachman, M.D.

Enoch Pardee (1827-1896) and his son George are most well known for their political accomplishments. They were also both accomplished physicians who were pioneers in early California Medicine. Enoch pioneered his specialty as an Oculist (Ophthalmologist) and an Aurist (Ear specialist) opening his San Francisco practice in February 1853 shortly after returning from the gold fields. His son George joined his practice in the same specialties in 1886.

Enoch most likely became interested in medicine when he suffered from a severe eye disease as a teenager known as Egyptian Ophthalmia (trachoma). He was treated and cured by a Dr. Bigelow. Enoch took medical courses at Ann Arbor College in Michigan and was a preceptor under Dr. Bigelow. It was not uncommon to become a doctor without a formal education in a medical school in those days.

Enoch left his medical studies to seek his fortune in the Gold Rush. He arrived in San Francisco in 1852 and went immediately to the Gold Fields where he was successful enough after one year to return and open his practice of medicine on Brenham Place on the Plaza in San Francisco. During his time in the gold country he volunteered to assist in treating patients during a cholera epidemic. He also became seriously ill from cholera and barely survived.

After his office on Brenham Place burned in a not too unusual San Francisco fire, he moved his practice to 737 Clay Street, SF where he practiced for over twenty years.

Mary, Enoch's fiancée, was able to join him in San Francisco in 1855 and they married soon after her arrival. Their only son George was born in 1857. Enoch continued to do well financially as evidenced by the upscale neighborhoods they lived in – Rincon Hill and Nob Hill.

In 1862 Enoch moved his family to Chicago where he entered Rush Medical School. He graduated in 3 years receiving his M.D. degree.

After returning to San Francisco, Mary became ill with a severe respiratory illness. Because Enoch thought the weather in Oakland would be better for Mary's health they bought a lot in Oakland at 11<sup>th</sup> & Castro St in 1868. On this site they built the Pardee Italianate Villa we see today. They moved to the East Bay in December 1869. From Oakland Enoch then commuted to his medical practice in San Francisco via the Southern Pacific's 7<sup>th</sup> Street Rail Line and then the Ferry Boat from the Oakland Mole to San Francisco.

Enoch became a member of the Alameda County Medical Association in March 1872. He received his California State Medical License on 8/19/1876 from the State Medical Society (later to become the Board of Medical Examiners of California State). Prior to 1876 no State Medical Licenses were issued.

## Upcoming Events

### "Here and Now" All June

In June, we are collaborating to present "Here and Now," an exhibition of three site-specific installations in historic Oakland architecture, curated by Christian L. Frock presents Invisible Venue and organized by Mills College Art Museum. Artist Floor Vahn ([www.floorvahn.com](http://www.floorvahn.com)) will create unique sound scores, titled "Sonic Pardee Home (Reconstituting Memories of Pardee Past)," that will draw on the real and imagined history of the house. It will be installed as ambient sound in various rooms for special tours every Saturday in June at 1, 2, and 3pm. More information may be found at [www.invisiblevenue.com](http://www.invisiblevenue.com) or [www.mills.edu/museum](http://www.mills.edu/museum).

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

We are now preparing for the traditional Pardee 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic.

Trustee John Nicoles will again set up the boiling pot of fresh corn, a highlight in 2009; while Mary Dial is preparing to reprise one of last year's favorites: "The Cake Walk".

Musical producer, Annie Lore, is lining up rag-time piano music, singers and the traditional "Most Picturesque Hat" and "Most Dapper Man" contests.

The Barbecue and old-time ice cream making will again be special attractions. A bazaar tent, badminton, and croquet will also be featured for the usual entrance fee of \$12 for teens and adults, with discounts available for those who purchase tickets in advance or come in period dress. Picnickers can sign up for Museum tours at \$5.00 each.

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## Frederick Hodges Jazz Concert

A Sunday afternoon Jazz concert will be held in the Pardee Garden from 2:00 to 4:30 on August 22 featuring the popular favorite, Frederick Hodges, accompanied by singer, Ann Gibson.

Classically trained as a concert pianist, Frederick Hodges has become renowned as one of America's most versatile artists; his extensive repertoire includes all the best ragtime and novelty piano pieces. He has appeared on national television, radio, and in several Hollywood films.

Ann Gibson has been a sought after stage singer for the past decade with her velvety voiced renditions of American tunes from the 1920's, 30's, and 40's. She has worked as a staff vocalist with the Black Tie Orchestra and the Martini Brothers Band. She performed as a child in local theatrical productions and was a character at Oakland's Fairyland.

Order your tickets using the insert.

Watch our website for more details.

[www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org)

## Sue Dunton: Quilter Extraordinaire

The beautiful quilt hanging in the Poppy Porch Shop is the work of local quilter, Sue Dunton. A native of Oakland and fourth generation Californian, Sue has been practicing her hobby for approximately 25 years. As a young girl, she made clothes for her dolls, then later sewed for herself. While passing a shop that specialized in quilt fabrics and the art of quilting, she became intrigued and signed up for a class. It was love at first stitch.

Following the events of 9/11, Sue quilted a Memorial Quilt which now hangs in a firehouse in New York City. The quilt, framed by the Historical Society of New York, serves as a reminder of the dedication and service given by Firemen everywhere.



Poppy Porch Quilt by Sue Dunton

## Two New Board Members

The Pardee Home Museum Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Ronald Bachman and John Nicoles as new board members.

**Ronald Bachman:** Ron moved to San Francisco at age two months. He attended Lowell High School where he met his future wife, Sue. He attended UC Berkeley and then went on to UC San Francisco medical school to become a pediatrician. He became interested in genetics and passed his boards in both pediatrics and genetics. Ron practiced clinical genetics at Kaiser Permanente Oakland for over 38 years. During these years he was a clinician, researcher, teacher and administrator. Ron's passions include his family and his work. He used to run marathons but still exercises because it allows him to have outrageous desserts.

California history has been a significant interest of his. Ron was a history docent at the Oakland Museum and is now also a docent at Mountain View Cemetery as well as the Pardee Home. Ron's interest in and researching of historical issues has already benefitted the Pardee Home – see page 1 for an article he researched and wrote.

**John Nicoles:** John was born and raised in Berkeley. He attended Berkeley public schools and headed for Cal. He earned his B.S. degree in forestry in 1966. From 1967 to 1970 John served in the US army. He was stationed in Germany and then in Viet Nam. He returned to the East Bay and spent the next 21 years in various positions with the East Bay Regional Park District.

A life long interest for John has been railroads. The transportation of logs by rail connected with his interest in forestry. In retirement John volunteers his expertise in many ways including operating and demonstrating a 120 year old steam logging machine to educate school children.

The Pardee Home Museum has become a special place for John and his wife Mary. They both volunteer endlessly to help make the Pardee Home Museum more available to the public. They are dedicated docents and both say "yes" to taking on many additional responsibilities.

## Get To Know Jose!



Jose Rivera

Jose is our live-in caretaker at the Pardee Home Museum. He cares deeply about the home and always gives the extra effort anyway he can. He takes care of the garden, dusts, cleans the museum, and welcomes volunteers to his kitchen.

Jose was born in the town of Escuinapa, Sinaloa, Mexico. As a young boy he came to California in 1974. After a few months in L.A. he came to Oakland where he lived across the street from Helen and Madeline Pardee. He remembers friendly waves from Helen as she worked in her garden or stepped into a taxi in front of her home. Later, he met David Nicolai and frequently helped with the Pardee Home Museum garden.

He remembers his family orchard in Mexico where he could pick bananas, oranges, mangos and avocados off the trees. His interest in plants and gardening started as a child.

Jose has worked as a gardener for 20 years and also has worked as a cook or waiter in several restaurants over the years. He has a Community College degree and presently takes classes in landscaping.

When David left last year he asked Jose to move in and take care of the Pardee Home Museum. Jose appreciates historical homes and enjoys painting, cooking, gardening and repairing so coming to live at the Pardee Home Museum was a good fit for him.

Jose is a very giving person. He previously volunteered at St. Mary's and now volunteers every Sunday at a dining hall for the homeless. The Pardee Home Museum organization is grateful for all of Jose's efforts.

## Tom Doctor Retires from Board

After more than 7 years on the Pardee Board, Tom Doctor resigned last November, 2009. For the last several years Tom was part of both the Finance and Grounds Committee. Thank you Tom for all of your work with the Pardee Home – we will miss you.

### A Touch of History Pardee Family Transportation

In the Pardee Family Home Museum carriage house one can see the original horse drawn carriage the family used until 1911 when George bought a Winton automobile. They also owned a LaSalle automobile at one time. The family always referred to their car as “the machine”. For Sunday outings George brought “the machine” around to the front of the home and picked up Mrs. Pardee and their daughters. None of the Pardee women ever drove a car and in later years one could see Madeline and Helen being picked up by taxi.

## The Practitioners Pardee Part 2: George Pardee

After graduating valedictorian from the University of California at Berkeley, George Pardee (1857-1941) entered the Cooper Medical School in San Francisco. The school was started by Dr. Elias Samuel Cooper (1820-1862). Enoch must have known Dr. Cooper because there was some discussion of practicing together. It is also possible the relationship was close enough that George whose middle name is Cooper was named for Dr. Cooper.

After leaving Cooper Medical School George attended the prestigious Leipzig Medical School in Leipzig Germany graduating on 2/28/85. He was licensed to practice in California on 6/3/1885 and joined his father's practice as a specialist in the eye and ear in 1886. Their practice was on 526 Montgomery Street (corner of Clay Street). We are not certain when Enoch retired from practice, but it was probably prior to 1893. From this date George practiced with Dr. Frederick W. Morse (1855-1932) for almost 26 years.

George and Dr. Morse closed their practice that was located in the old San Francisco Chronicle building after the 1906 earthquake. The building was seriously damaged. Although they practiced in San Francisco for several more years at different locations, they soon closed their office in San Francisco and practiced only in Oakland. It is likely that when George was Governor (1903-1907) that Dr. Morse worked at the office without George.

When George lived at the Governor's mansion in Sacramento he kept his medical bag by the front door for emergencies. Although this fact is in the literature, a personal communication with Ron Pardee Nielson (distant relative of George Pardee) puts a different slant on it. He was told by Miss Helen Pardee (youngest daughter of George and Helen Pardee) that the medical bag did not contain medical equipment, but was used for some of her toys.

In 1889 George was appointed to the Oakland Board of Public Health. George's primary interest was providing clean drinking water in order to prevent water borne diseases and epidemics. In 1890 George was instrumental in seeing that the Contra Costa Water Company (the major source of drinking water for Oakland) install filters in their Temescal and San Leandro plants. George's father, Enoch, also served on the Oakland Board of Public Health and had similar interests in providing pure water.

George retired from the practice of medicine in 1920, but his interest in providing pure water to Oakland continued. He founded EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utility District) in 1924 and remained a Director until just prior to his death in 1941. He was instrumental in the building of the Pardee Dam and Reservoir on the Mokelumne River which was named for him. This reservoir and river are still Oakland's source of water.

George likened his career in medicine to being Governor. He was fond of saying that in both jobs he went to his office in the morning, listened to many tales of woe, made examinations into the cause, and then wrote out a prescription.

## Membership Application

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

- Student \$15  
 Individual \$25  
 Family \$40  
 Patron \$100 - \$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

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

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

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Address

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City State Zip

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Home Phone Work Phone

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E-mail

## Thank You for your Help!

### New Docent Class

Ann Brown, Marian Gold and Holly Hong are currently in training to become Pardee Home Museum docents. After they graduate in May we will have a team of twelve docents serving the public giving tours.

# PARDEE HOME MUSEUM

AN OAKLAND HISTORIC TREASURE



## Tours and Teas

Regular Tours - \$5.00 per person:

Wednesdays - 10:30am

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month - 10:30am

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month - 2:00pm

Private Tours and Teas (4 - 12 people by reservation):

Dessert Tea - \$12 with Tour

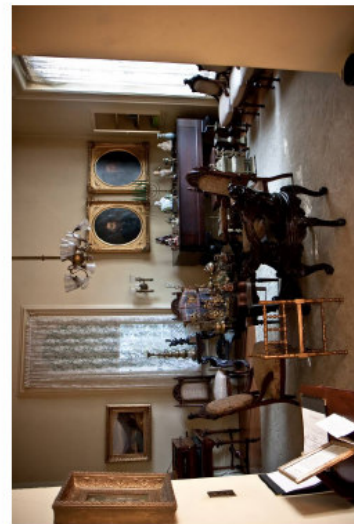
High Tea - \$25 with Tour / \$20 without

Prices per person

Address: 672 11<sup>th</sup> St. (at Castro), Oakland, CA

Phone: 510-444-2187

Website: [www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org)



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

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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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