



The Cupola

The Newsletter
of the
Pardee Home Museum

Spring / Summer 2012

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

Hats, Hats and More Hats!

By Kerry Jones



Among the many objects that we have in the Museum is the collection of beautiful hatboxes on the closet shelf in the Twin Room. This Spring we decided to open the hatboxes, investigate the contents, and put them on display upstairs in the bedrooms and Billiard Room. These hats represent not only a fascinating glimpse into the tastes and styles of Mrs. Helen Pardee and her four daughters but the evolution of hats from the mid-Victorian era to the 1960's.

As you walk through the rooms, you can imagine each Pardee lady and the hat she might have worn. As we look at the hats in the Pardee collection, we can see how hat styles reflect current events and the changing role of women.

Mrs. Helen grew up in the Victorian era, a time when a lady was completely covered from head to toe. Dresses were voluminous and tightly corseted, with a bell-shaped silhouette. Fashionable bonnets completely covered women's hair and hid their faces.

By the mid-1870's, when Mrs. Helen was a young woman, styles were changing. Small hats tied with ribbons replaced bonnets. Women's faces and hair were no longer hidden. We are lucky to have two beautiful hats from this era.

We can imagine Helen with one of these fanciful little hats perched on her flaming red hair. Perhaps she wore them while she and George were courting. They are a charming transition between Victorian bonnets and the extravagant hats worn in the Edwardian era.

As we move to the Edwardian Era beginning in 1910, we see a change in

silhouettes, both for hats and for women's figures. The huge skirts of the previous age were replaced by a simpler, more columnar look in dresses. To balance the slim lines of the clothing, hair was worn in a full pompadour and hats became larger and more extravagant, with plumes and feathers and artificial flowers.

Mrs. Helen and Miss Florence have left us some beautiful hats from this period. Among the hats in the Billiard Room you see a picture of young Florence with her hair in a fashionable pompadour, perfect for one of the flowery, lacy hats in our collection.

The Edwardian period gave way to what is sometimes called the Titanic era, the period before World War I. As the war approached, hats and dresses changed and became simpler, more military in appearance. We have a rather rare gold "helmet" hat from 1914. We can only speculate which patriotic Pardee daughter wore this hat.

The end of World War I ushered in the Jazz Age, when young women bobbed their hair, rolled their stockings, threw away their corsets and embraced freedom. Hats became more simple and closer-fitting, perfect for riding in the newly introduced automobile. We have several cloche hats from this period that may have been worn by Miss Carol.

Madeline and Helen are represented in the collection as well. In addition to some summery hats from the 1930's and 40's, we have their cocktail hats from the 1950's and dressy straw hats from the 1960's. The hatboxes in Madeline's room will bring back memories for anyone who grew up in Oakland: Capwell's, Joseph Magnin, or Kahn's.

Walking through the hat show is a look back into history, the history of fashion, Oakland, and the Pardee women. Do join us for the show now extended to August 1.

Note by Editor: Kerry Jones, one of our wonderful PHM volunteers, was looking through our closets and suggested that we display our hats in a special show. After receiving permission, she created the amazing display you can see now at PHM.

Street Sign Replaced at Home of EBMUD Founder

By Cheryl A. Farr, Special Assistant to the General Manager, EBMUD



The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has a long history of supporting the Pardee Home Museum. George Pardee was the first president of EBMUD and the namesake of the District's primary water storage reservoir, which is located on the Mokelumne River. EBMUD most recently helped out by designing and installing a new sign at the museum.

Contributing to the effort were (left to right)

George Monterrey, Painter

Rolando Gonzalez, Water Conservation Representative

Dwight Punzel, Carpenter

Nalani Heath-Delaney, Carpenter

EBMUD Director and Pardee Home Museum Trustee Katy Foulkes coordinated the effort on the District's behalf. She also has facilitated other work by EBMUD that enables the museum to showcase low-water using landscapes.

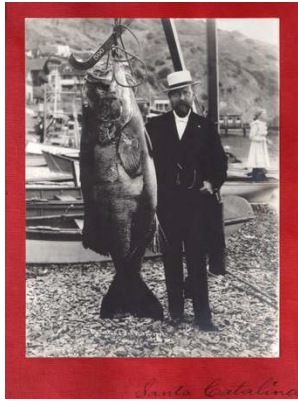
Note by Editor: Thank you EBMUD for your contribution to PHM. Your second sign on our water tower provides more of the history of George Pardee and EBMUD.

GREENING OF THE CUPOLA

We would like to invite all of our supporters to consider receiving their copies of *The Cupola* by e-mail. If you are interested in saving paper and the cost of mailing, please send an email to office@pardeehome.org.

The Story of George and His Fish

By David Nicolai



Erica Jackson, a volunteer with PHM several years back was looking through our library and came across a book with an interesting inscription. The book is *The Channel Islands of California: A Book for the Angler, Sportsman, and Tourist* by Charles F. Holder (1910). The inscription reads, "To Gov George C. Pardee, the holder of the Black Sea Bass record of the San Clemente Climbing with Pleasure Club...From an aaaaaaaging but envious fellow member, the author...Pasadena, Cal, June 2, 1910." This inscription points to some of Pardee's most memorable days as an outdoorsman and to his familiarity with a then-emerging arena of conservation action – that of preserving big-game fish.

The book's author, Charles Holder, was the son of Joseph Holder, a noted East Coast naturalist and a co-founder of the Museum of Natural History in New York. As a young man Charles joined his father in studying coral growth in the Florida reefs and ended up devoting the rest of his life to studying, collecting, and writing about natural history, particularly sea life. He moved to Pasadena in 1885 and in 1899 helped to establish at Santa Catalina Island the first major aquarium and zoological station on the West Coast.

Essential to our story, Holder was the founder, in 1898, of the Avalon Tuna Club, formed "to prevent the slaughter of game fish with hand-lines, to elevate the standard of sport on the Pacific Coast, either in fresh or salt water, and to protect game fish in every way, and to secure proper legislation affecting the fisheries of all kinds, and protection of sardines and other food fish during the spawning season, and in every legitimate way to set an example of the highest possible sportsmanship."

Note by Editor: On close inspection of the photograph, the inscription was likely tongue in cheek. The fish appears to be MUCH closer to the camera with George in the background. On first viewing it appears the fish is the same size as George but is most definitely much smaller. The weight hand-written on the tail of the fish – 234 lbs – also appears to be a bit of a fish tale...

Introducing Two New Trustees

By Kay Cheatham

Darlene Dawson:

Darlene was born in Oakland, raised in Oakley and today resides in Antioch. She attended Diablo Valley Junior College where she majored in business and worked for Sears.

She met her future husband at the age of ten (he lived next door to her friend) and eleven years later they married. They have one daughter, Amy. When Amy started school Darlene began 13 years of volunteering in the Antioch schools.

Darlene and her husband Jim have always been involved with boating. In 1976 they discovered the Sportsmen Yacht Club and Jim became a member. Darlene was the first woman to apply for membership in 1985. She was rejected, as it was a men's only place. But her application opened the door and in 1987 the club established a family membership category and Darlene was admitted. She is a past Commodore of the club and is presently the Fleet Captain and also their representative to PICYA – Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association.

Her father was a major influence in her life. They took organ lessons together when she was a child; she later moved to piano. She spent time collecting "anything and every thing" with her dad and has collected all of her life. Darlene completely understands Mrs. Helen Pardee and her never-ending collections.

Darlene has also danced from the age of four to the present. She was eager to reach age fifty so she could dance with the Senior Flappers who perform throughout the community.

An article in the Chronicle about the needs of the Pardee Home Museum when David Nicolai left caught Darlene's attention and she called the home to offer her skills. Here at the PHM Darlene has been an outstanding docent since 2009 and lends a hand to the tea committee when needed.

Sue Coffin:

Sue was born in Hartford Conn. and moved frequently; from Hartford to New Jersey, Washington D.C., Denver, and Rockford Ill. where she attended high school. Sue graduated from the University of Iowa and earned a masters degree in audiology.

At the University of Iowa Sue met Rick, a fellow student on a blind date who became her husband. Together they came to California so he could attend Stanford Law School. Sue worked for Alameda County and Piedmont USD doing auditory training through special education programs. Rick and Sue have two children and live in an historic 1899 Piedmont home.

Swimming has been her sport since early childhood and in Jr. and Sr. high school Sue competed in synchronized swimming.

Today her hobby is needlepoint. She also enjoys gardening, reading, travel and her diverse volunteer activities.

Historic homes became of interest to Sue when she lived in Washington D.C. She clearly remembers as a child being taken to the home of Robert E. Lee. When traveling she seeks out historic homes in any area. Hearing about the docent program at the Pardee Home Museum she immediately signed up. She has contributed to the overall functioning of the museum as well as giving historically interesting tours.

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## Garden Bench Dedicated In Memory of Bill Baldwin



Bill Baldwin, a life long Oakland resident, was a great friend and supporter of the Pardee Home Museum for over ten years before his death. He served on the Board of Trustees and made a unique contribution in keeping all of the PHM clocks in running order. He took special pride in his work on the grandfather clock in the front hall.

Bill was on the cutting edge when computers arrived and he helped David Nicolai set up computer programs for the PHM.

Debbie Baldwin, Bills wife, contributed the lovely rod iron garden bench with a plaque commemorating Bills devotion to the home. A reception and dedication of the bench was held in Bill's memory in the garden.

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Pardee Home Benefits From Gifts

The Pardee Home Museum Board wishes to acknowledge and thank three organizations that have recently made monetary donations to the home:

Alameda County Historical Society Montclair Garden Club Old Oakland Neighborhood Association

The PHM receives no public funding and depends on the generous donations of local organizations, guests and patrons. We could not keep the home open without their assistance. Thank you both so much for your generosity and in thinking of the Pardee Home Museum.



The Pardee's Neighborhood (Part 2) "Occupy" Oakland with George Pardee

By Ron Bachman, Docent & Trustee

In the last issue of The Cupola I discussed the Preservation Park neighbors of the Pardee Family. I talked of the fascinating history of the Sather family and house (now vanished), the Remillard family and house, the Ginn house and its attached Niles Club, and the James and Ellen White house. Now it is time for more of the neighborhood and its relationship to the Pardee family.

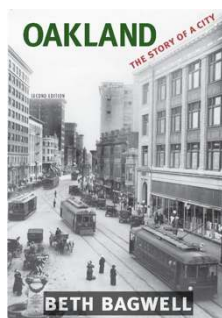
The First Unitarian Church of Oakland (Castro and 14th Streets) was constructed in 1890 on land sold to the church by Jane Sather who lived in a nearby Victorian house. Jane attended services at the church. The architect was Walter Matthews whose son, Arthur, became a well-known artist and muralist. Over 100,000 Remillard bricks were used and Peter Remillard was the General Contractor. The church's tower, based on the Campanile in San Marco Square, Venice, Italy was also the inspiration for The Campanile (Sather Tower) at UC Berkeley.

Enoch Pardee, although not a Unitarian, was a co-founder of the church and lived just long enough to see the church completed. As far as we know George Pardee did not attend services at the church. We do know that author Jack London was married in the church and his family became members. Poet Joaquin Miller was one of the original members of the congregation.

The African American Museum & Library (Martin Luther King and 14th Streets) plays a significant part in the history of the Oakland Public Library. It was Mayor Enoch Pardee (1876-1878) who was instrumental in the formation of the Oakland Free Library in 1878. Then in 1899 Andrew Carnegie pledged \$50,000 for a new Oakland Public Library structure if the land would be donated. The Ebell Society (originally the International Academy for the Advancement of Women) donated \$20,000 for the property. Both Mrs. Helen and Madeline were members of the Ebell Society. This library, which became the Main Branch of the Oakland Public Library, was built with the Carnegie money on the land donated by the Ebell Society.

Charles Samuel Greene became the Head Librarian. When the structure became a branch library in 1951 (when the current Main Branch at 125-14th St opened), it was called the Greene Library honoring its first head librarian. It closed in 1971 and was severely damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. After restoration returned the building to its original grandeur, it became the African American Museum & Library opening in 2002. The restoration brought back to life the murals of Arthur Matthews.

Next time – the eclectic neighbors of the Pardee Family.



The following text is from *Oakland, The Story of a City* by Beth Bagwell, now in its 2nd Edition. It may be purchased from the Oakland Heritage Alliance at www.oaklandheritage.org.

He [Frank Mott, Oakland mayor from 1905-1915] first entered politics in 1894, when George C. Pardee, then mayor [1893-1895], appointed him to the City Council to fill a vacancy. Mayor Pardee may have been repaying a political debt from an incident in 1893. In that year, a depression year, armies of the unemployed were everywhere, marching to Washington. One night, a large contingent of them came through Oakland. Whether or not there were grounds for fear, Mayor Pardee worried about violence. Frank Mott opened his hardware store and handed out ax handles to Mayor Pardee and a group of city leaders, who made a show of force and loaded the unemployed on a train out of town. It is not clear whether any of the ax handles were actually used – stout, yard-long staves of hardwood – they would have been formidable weapons. But after the incident, Pardee was known derisively in some quarters as “pick-handle Pardee”, and neither Mott nor Pardee was ever popular with labor (as told to the author by Helen Pardee, the governor’s daughter).

Update: It turns out that instead of ax handles, Frank Mott actually passed out wagon wheel spokes. Ron Pardee Nielson, one of PHM’s lifetime board members and a Pardee family member, said that Helen talked about these spokes. She claimed that Frank Mott said those who were given them for use that day returned them all. She said, “No they weren’t – we still have one at the Pardee Home!” You can ask a docent to show you this historic spoke which looks amazingly like an ax handle.

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### Calendar of Future PHM Events

- June 10** – PHM hosts Alameda County Historical Society meeting
- June 23** – PHM Tour with David Nicolai
- July 4** – Family Day at PHM
- July 9** – PHM hosts Bay Area Historic Home Museums meeting
- August 4** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ghost Investigation
- Sept 22** – Garden Music event



## 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!**



## Vintage Hat Show at the Pardee Home Museum!!

The Pardee Home Museum is opening its hatboxes just in time for Spring. Come tour the house and view our fabulous hat collection.

**Date:** April 1 through August 1, 2012

**Location:** Corner of 11th Street and Castro  
Oakland, CA

**Cost:** Tour \$5.00 / Tea & Tour \$25

Bring your friends and stay for high tea.

Reservations required for tea. 510-444-2187

*HATS ARE OPTIONAL, BUT WELCOME.*

### Tours:

10:30 a.m. every Wednesday

10:30 a.m. every *second* Saturday

2:00 p.m. every *second* Sunday



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

### The Cupola

is published by the Pardee Home Museum  
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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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