



The Cupola

Newsletter of the PARDEE HOME MUSEUM

Spring / Summer 2020

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

California Historic Landmark
1998

The Pardee Family and the Chinese in Northern California

By Ron Bachman

Up to the present we have little information on any connections between the Pardees' and the Asian population in the East Bay. We were aware of a Chinese herbalist that lived near the Pardee home, but nothing more. We may soon learn a great deal more about this.

Our Board of Directors has just approved a project doing a case study on the Pardee Home Museum studying the history of Chinese working as domestics in Victorian American homes. We will be working with Hongyan Yang, a graduate student doing her Ph.D. thesis on this subject. She is a Ph.D. Candidate in Architecture at the University of Wisconsin. Through her study of the Oakland Census information she has already identified a male Chinese cook (1930), Edward Lung, and Edward Jung (1940) who supposedly lived at the Pardee Home with his wife, Grace. She also identified a Japanese servant (Henry Fuji, wife Markei and Sirks, their child (1910) and a Japanese cook, Kato Yanage (1920). We were unaware that any of the Pardee family cooks lived at the Pardee Home.

Enoch Pardee arrived in California in early 1852 to pan for gold on the Yuba River. Before this there were less than 1,000 Chinese in California. At about this time young Chinese males were arriving mostly from the Guangdong area of China (west of Hong Kong). There was famine, hunger, and poverty as well as a war (Opium War) in China. Their goal was to work "Gold Mountain" (in Chinese Gam Sam), and to return to China after a year or so and enrich their families with gold from the Sierra Mountain Rivers of California. Unfortunately, most were marooned in California because of their inability to pay their travel and living debts and essentially became "indentured servants". Most of the 25,000 Chinese who came for the Gold Rush were forced to stay in California and never to return to their ancestral homes and filial duties. In addition, another 12,000 Chinese came to work on the Transcontinental Railroad (1862-1869) and

again many chose or were forced to stay. These influxes of Chinese are two of the reasons that Northern California has one of the largest Chinese population in the USA. Oakland's large population of Chinese comes from this and from fleeing San Francisco's Chinatown after the fire associated with the 1906 earthquake. The East Bay has also had an influx of Chinese attending the University of California at Berkeley.



It was not easy for the Chinese who came for the Gold Rush. They could not become citizens, could not vote, and could not enter the California courts to defend themselves if accused of a crime. They had to pay a foreign miner taxes and were excluded from establishing any claims on the gold bearing rivers of California. They essentially had no rights, and law and order barely existed in the Gold Rush areas. It was not unusual for Chinese miners to pan for gold only on Sundays because they were excluded during weekdays. Sunday was the day most of the American gold miners had a day of rest spending the day in nearby cities. These Chinese were known as "Sunday Miners".

The Chinese queue (long braided hairstyle) was required to be worn by male subjects of the Qing dynasty. If a Chinese male did not wear a queue it was considered treason against the emperor, punishable by death. It was not uncommon for the American gold miners to torment the Chinese miners by cutting their queue. Since most of the Chinese miners intended to return to China, this would prevent their return.

The following drawing shows some of the hostility with which the Chinese miners had to deal.



This photo is a daguerreotype of a Chinese man with his queue. This was the first type of photography invented about 10 years before the Gold Rush. The California Gold Rush was the first world event to be extensively photographed.

Very few Chinese women came to California which added to the problem of loneliness for the men who left China for the Gold Rush and to build the Transcontinental Railroad. Business minded Americans soon capitalized on this by importing young Chinese women to sell as wives or to work in the brothels frequented by the young Chinese males stranded in California. It is the tragic story of the treatment of these young women imported from China.

On Sunday January 26th (4:00-6:00 PM) in the Pardee Home Carriage House author Jeff Staley discussed his book, "Gum Moon" which deals with the subject of Chinese women brought to California and their difficult life. The details of this event are in our Pardee Home website (pardeehome.org) and in this issue of the Cupola.

Gum Moon: A Novel of SF Chinatown by Jeffrey Staley

On Sunday, January 26th, 2020, the 2nd day of Chinese New Year, the Pardee Carriage House Salon welcomed Jeffrey Staley, author of the book "Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown." Gum Moon, Cantonese for 'Golden Gate', is the setting for most of his illuminating novel about the slavery of Chinese girls in San Francisco from late in the 19th century to the early 20th century.

It follows Chun, later called Maud, from her sale at the age of three in 1898 to her early teens. Chun's mother is forced by poverty to sell her to a brothel owner where Chinese girls sold into slavery must serve men. Chun is too young for this but even at age three she must work, often beaten and always hungry, cleaning the house. But there were missionary societies funded by congregations in the eastern US, who struggled to save as many young Chinese girls as they could. In a dangerous maneuver Chun is liberated and grows up at Gum Moon, an orphanage/home for these young women at 940 Washington Street, the heart of Chinatown in San Francisco. The lecture attracted a good sized group, including 9 descendants of the original girls who lived there. Gum Moon was first established in 1868, with the goal of providing shelter, education, and vocational training for Chinese girls rescued from human trafficking. A group of dedicated women was in charge of running it, later became known as the Women's Missionary Society of the Pacific Coast. Also of note, the Gum Moon rebuilt home was designed by noted architect Julia Morgan in 1907.



Attendees of the event. Photo by Randy Yee, a family member by marriage of one of the Gum Moon orphans.

After the lecture, some in the audience told of stories passed down by Grandmothers and relatives who lived in this refuge. We learned how the girls thrived in this home

and how after the earthquake of 1906 destroyed the house, they embarked on a tour of the country to raise money to rebuild, received rave reviews and were asked to sing for President Theodore Roosevelt in the White House. This was a significant opportunity, an exhilarating experience for these amazing young girls rescued from horrendous situations, yet going on to experience such an honor. It is an inspiring story which gave them a lasting sense of pride.

Following the lecture a champagne reception was held in the Pardee family dining room offering a generous array of traditional Dim Sum and sweets: cookies, brownies and custard tarts, a wonderfully delicious way to end a very pleasant day.

To participate in future events held at the Pardee museum Carriage House salon, call Richelle Lieberman at 510.381.1973.

Upcoming POWER Event

On Sunday, September 13th at 2 PM, the 9th Annual Delilah Beasley Tea will be held at the Pardee Museum gardens. Progressive Oakland Women Empowering Reform (POWER) calls this "more than a tea party", an extraordinary celebration of 100 years of empowered women making change in Oakland. POWER include active members of the League of Women Voters, AAUW (American Association of University Women) and other professional women who feel recognition is important; acknowledging individuals who strive to make our community a better place.

The tea was inspired by its namesake, Delilah Beasley (1874-1934), an historian and newspaper columnist for the Oakland Tribune and the first African-American woman to be published regularly in a major metropolitan newspaper, our annual tea celebrates today's change-leaders working hard for the betterment of our community. We welcome you to join us in honoring the trail blazers of today at this elegant tea.

The afternoon program includes awards, live music, sumptuous pastries provided by Scott Cardel catering and Semifredi Bakery and what promises to be an unforgettable summer afternoon. The tea affords POWER and the community the opportunity to honor and celebrate extraordinary community leaders and organizations whose vision and leadership inspire, enrich, transform and empower our communities. This year's honoree has not yet been named, but rest assured it will be a dynamic individual whose work is exceptional.

For more information call Richelle Lieberman at 510.381.1973 or scarletbohemian@aol.com



Two New Board Members!

Sue Bachman:

I have been connected to the Pardee House for 8 years ever since Ron, my husband, began his docenting and joined the Board. I have helped out at events and have encouraged friends to attend.

I graduated from UC Berkeley a long time ago. Just to indicate how long, I went to the last Rose Bowl in which Cal played and I hope to live long enough to attend another Rose Bowl to root on the Bears!

I am what has been called a "professional volunteer" and over the years I have been involved with many organizations. I actually was the volunteer coordinator at Joaquin Miller elementary school in Oakland and then PTA president. I was president of Temple Sinai in Oakland for three years, also a long time ago. Working with the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, I was chair of the Volunteer Action Center.

Recently I was asked to be the Volunteer Coordinator for the Pardee House (Is there a theme here?) and as such I have communicated with those who have expressed interest in helping with teas, with events and other possibilities. Pass along your suggestions and I will contact them.

In the future, I look forward to working with all the dedicated Pardee people.

Dennis Evanosky:

Dennis Evanosky lives in the Laurel District. He publishes the Alameda Sun newspaper with Eric J. Kos. He and Eric have written and published five books about Oakland and Alameda history and have written seven books for their London publisher, Pavilion Books. Dennis currently writes and edits the Alameda County Historical Society's quarterly newsletter. He served the Oakland Heritage Alliance as its newsletter editor for two years.

Dennis has received four Partners in Preservation Awards from the Oakland History Alliance: for a calendar featuring the Oakland Laurel district's history; for restoring the Civil War section of Mountain View Cemetery; for assisting Bill Caldwell with Oakland: A Photographic Journey; and as a member of the Oakland Heritage Alliance's walking-tour team.

Dennis has been a docent at Mountain View Cemetery and at the Pardee Home Museum for twenty-three years. He leads about twenty other history walking tours for the cities of Oakland and Alameda.

Dennis is serving as a member of San Francisco History Days Host Committee for the fourth year. He is also busy with a documentary and book about the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the transcontinental railroad in Alameda and Oakland in 1869.

The Tragic Death of Carol Pardee and the Pandemic 100 Years Ago

By David Nicolai

[Editor's Note: George Pardee married Helen Penniman on January 25, 1887. Their marriage resulted in 4 daughters, all born in Oakland – Florence (January 10, 1888), Madeline (September 12, 1889), Carol (May 12 1891), and Helen (September 12 1895). Florence died on September 11, 1910 due to a car accident in Marin. Madeline and Helen lived until 1980 and 1981 respectively, staying in the Pardee home until their deaths. The following is part of an article David wrote for the April 2001 edition of the Cupola. The first half of the article, not included here, discusses Florence's death. The article may be found here: https://pardeehome.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Cupola-Apr-01_LR.pdf]



Carol Pardee, circa 1918

In contrast to the dramatic, front-page news of her sister's fatal accident, Carol Pardee's death from influenza almost ten years later, on March 4, 1920, was not prominently featured in the local newspapers. This may have been partially due to the fact that the Pardees, who had been back from Sacramento for some thirteen years by this time, were not as much in the public eye as previously, and it may also have been due to the fact that Carol fell victim to the fourth, and final, wave of influenza which killed millions throughout the world during and after World War I.

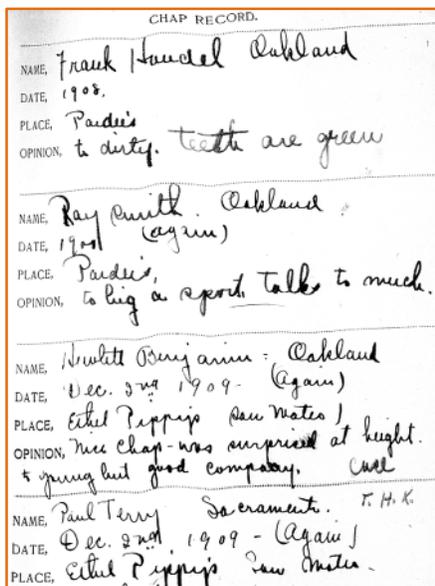
The first and most deadly outbreak of influenza hit Oakland in fall of 1918, when about 1,000 arrests were made for failure to wear gauze masks on city streets; when the Oakland Municipal Auditorium (now the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center) temporarily became a 500-bed hospital for influenza victims; and, when the death toll here climbed to 450 (out of a nationwide total of 400,000). A second outbreak of the deadly flu occurred in early 1919, a third in September of 1919,

and a fourth in 1920. In early February of that year the *Tribune* reported that the City Council had appropriated \$1,000 for combating influenza, which had claimed the lives of 24 Oakland residents out of 833 reported cases during that outbreak; however, while "it is generally admitted that here is a lot of influenza in the city, it is not especially dangerous, and the death rate is very much lower, the disease is of a lighter quality and much more controllable than during the last year or two."

Unfortunately for Carol, she was to fall victim to this last and weakest outburst of the disease. She had developed acute bronchitis, which progressed into influenza and killed her within days, as her physician father watched by her bedside in the twin bedroom of the family home. Carol was twenty-seven at the time of her death; Florence had been twenty-three. Carol had apparently attended the California College of Arts and Crafts (then known as the California School of Arts and Crafts and located at 2119 Allston Way in Berkeley) around 1912-1913; Florence was a senior at the University of California at the time of her death. Both had private funerals at the Pardee home, Carol's presided over by a Father Gee of St. John's Episcopal Church of Berkeley and Florence's by a Reverend Charles Brown of the First Congregational Church of Oakland. And, of course, both are buried at the family monument in Oakland's historic Mountain View Cemetery.

From The Grand Tour By David Nicolai

Before her death, Carol owned one of the most amusing objects in the house, a book called *Chap Record* on the small central table. It was a Christmas present to Carol in 1910 and was used by the young lady to record the visits of "chaps," or young gentlemen who would come "calling" on her. Carol recorded the name of the chap, the date and place of the visit, and, most importantly, her impressions of each of the callers. The most unfortunate of all, as you can see here, was poor Frank Handel, whom Carol found, "too dirty...teeth are green!"



Volunteer Application

Yes! I want to volunteer at the Pardee Historic Home Museum.

- Tea Committee
- Docent
- Other: _____

Membership Application

YES! I want to become a member of the Pardee Historic 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!

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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

Pardee Home Museum Is Temporarily Closed due to the COVID-19 Virus

Due to increasing concerns surrounding the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and in light of the new recommendations of the CDC and the city of Oakland, specifying that there needs to be social space of 6 feet between people (even at small gatherings), we will be cancelling all teas, tours and events starting March 13 and continuing through the month of June and possibly longer. We will post further updates on our website, on Yelp and on our Facebook page.

The health and safety of our dedicated volunteers and our faithful patrons is of the utmost importance. We must all join and do what we can in the effort to slow the incidence and spread of this disease.

Thank you all for your willingness to help out, and for your support and patience as we navigate this unprecedented and changing situation. We wish everyone good health and safety during this uncertain time.

We cannot wait until we are able to share with you our wonderful historical home and invite you to our delightful teas and informative tours once again!

