

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 168TH YEAR

PIONEER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

WINTER EDITION



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Sacramento Pioneers**

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**March 10, 2022
Annual Meeting
at Del Paso
Country Club**

**Photos from the
Pioneer Holiday Gala**

Happy New Year!



Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



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Bill Bush

Joan Kibbey Taylor

Cover image: One hundred nine portraits of Sacramento Society of California Pioneers comprise this 1878 photographic collage compiled by local photographer John A. Todd. Each portrait bears a numerical mark that corresponds to one of 109 names that appear at the bottom of the photograph.



Sacramento Pioneer Association Pioneer Newsletter TM

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President's Message

Greetings Pioneers,

The annual picnic has come and gone and was a great success, and I know that everyone was delighted to be back socializing again. Big thanks to Trisha Setzer and Shelley Ford for putting the event together and to Barb Collopy and Martha Hughes for helping with setup. Also, thanks to the many Pioneers who stayed after the event and helped clean up.

The Pioneer Association revved up the holiday season with a festive gala at the California Automobile Museum, or so reported my wife, Sue. I regret being unable to attend. Vice President Lori Gualco welcomed guests in my stead and introduced the four-piece Salvation Army brass band that entertained the crowd with holiday favorites. Thanks again to Trisha Setzer and Shelley Ford as well as Jennifer Basye and Ric Steer. Special thanks to Dick Ryder, the museum's founder, and the museum docents for their hospitality.

Your Board of Directors has been active. Our

October meeting was held at Past President Wendel Flint's ranch. Wendel's barn proved to be a perfect venue for social distancing! In addition to hosting the Board, Wendel presented the association with a photograph of the original members of the Pioneer Association. It will be placed in Pioneer Hall, a fine addition to our historic building!

On the scholarship front, the Board decided to offer 3 scholarships in 2022 for deserving applicants.

You can also look forward to receiving a new membership directory early next year. As we have done in the past an opportunity will be available to members to contribute articles on their own families. Information in that regard will be forthcoming soon.

Last but not least, Michael Shepard is completing the book of historic articles that he has written.

The association is in fine financial shape, and we look forward to the holiday season.

Regards,

Bill Gould

Remembering Joan Kibbey Taylor

The Sacramento Pioneer Association has lost a dear friend. Joan Kibbey Taylor passed away at her home in Sacramento on October 23, 2021, the day after her 98th birthday.

Joan first became acquainted with the Pioneers in the mid-1960s through her brother, the late Mead Kibbey, who served as president of the Association from 1966 to 1972. Secretary Tom Hammer accepted Joan's application to become a Pioneer on April 1, 1984, which the membership unanimously approved. Over the course of nearly forty years, Joan would lead an active role among her fellow Pioneers.

For almost two decades, Joan chaired the Cemetery Maintenance Committee for the conservation of Pioneer Grove in the Sacramento City Cemetery. In recent years, she co-chaired the committee with her son, Rob Taylor. In 2001, Joan co-authored the book *Gone to Rest*, comprised of biographies of Sacramento Pioneers buried in or nearby Pioneer Grove. Co-writers included Carol Doersch, Carolyn Johnson, Mead Kibbey and Bob Livingston.

In 2006, Joan and brother Mead shared the Pioneer of the Year award.

From the early 1990s through 2020, Joan regularly attended board meetings as a director, committee chair and, later, courtesy director, during which time she contributed her valuable experience and insight.

Joan accepted an appointment by President Monica Pope to the Future Planning Committee from 2013 to 2014, and graciously allowed the committee to convene each month at her home.

Joan enjoyed everything about the Pioneers, especially the social events. Most recently, she attended the annual Pioneer Picnic this past September at Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For many of us, it would be the last time that we saw Joan's wonderful smiling face.

The board of directors, during its November meeting, proposed to name one of its annual scholarships the "Joan Kibbey Taylor Scholarship." As stated by Vice President Lori Gualco, who also serves as chair of the Scholarship Committee, it is "an honor consistent with her many years of dedication and service to the Sacramento Pioneer Association."

Joan now rests in Pioneer Grove where she devoted so much of her time and care. She will be sincerely missed by all who knew her.

Pioneer Roots of the Sacramento Public Library

By Michael Shepard

The first effort to organize a library in the city of Sacramento occurred in the early summer of 1850, prior to California statehood. On the evening of June 19, a group of citizens gathered at the council chamber on Fourth Street, opposite the courthouse, to establish the Mercantile Library Association of Sacramento as a cultural, intellectual, and literary center in the rapidly growing city. Advocates cited the immense success of the Cincinnati Mercantile Association founded in 1835.

The Sacramento *Transcript* reported in an article that appeared the following day that a larger than anticipated attendance engaged the meeting “with a commendable degree of spirit.” The article noted Joseph W. Winans, James Queen, Dr. John F. Morse, and Judge C. C. Sackett for their eloquent remarks. Observant readers might recognize the above four men as founding members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

Within a week, members of the Mercantile Library Association of Sacramento drafted a constitution, which they provided to the editor of the Sacramento *Transcript* for print in the newspaper’s June 24, 1850, edition. The stated object of the Association sought “the promotion of intellectual culture, by the establishment of an extensive Library, Reading Room, Popular Lectures, and for the formation of a Cabinet connected particularly with Geological, Mineralogical, Zoological and Botanical features of California.”

Before the end of the month, the Mercantile Library Association attracted nearly one hundred subscribers who paid an initiation fee of ten dollars with quarterly dues of three dollars, or one hundred and fifty dollars for life membership. In July, the organization elected officers and directors, half of whom would become members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association in a few short years. The archives of the library opened for donations, and a generous patron gifted his personal library of three hundred books. Corresponding Secretary John F. Morse offered his most sincere thanks in an open letter.

A Sacramento *Transcript* article dated August 5, 1850, proclaimed “As the Association is the oldest library affair of the kind in the State so let it be the best.” Of note, the *Transcript* referred to California as “the State” one month before President Millard Fillmore’s signature made it so on September 9, 1850, and two and a half months before news of statehood

reached California on October 18, 1850.

The Mercantile Library Association occupied and furnished five rooms in the upper story of a two-story building on the west side of Second Street, in the center of the block between J and K Streets. The library invited all to peruse the papers and periodicals without charge. Enthusiasm for the institute, however, waned by the end of 1850. The editor of the *Transcript* noted, “The body of the Sacramento Library Association is here, but the soul, alas, has fled.” He called for a “vigorous effort” to revitalize the worthy endeavor.

President C. C. Sackett responded with renewed enthusiasm: “MR. EDITOR: The excitement of the election having subsided, it seems a favorable moment to make an effort for the revival of the mercantile library association. There are already quite a number of books on hand - periodicals and newspapers are coming in, and a course of instructive lectures can be arranged, if our people will put their shoulder to the wheel.” Mr. Sackett referred to the general election of October 7, 1850, for California senators, members of the assembly, and lower offices. It appeared that everyone recognized the inevitability of California statehood.

The Mercantile Library Association remained true to President Sackett’s promise. The reading room relocated to Second Street, between J and K Streets next door to the Orleans Hotel. The association organized a series of lectures by knowledgeable speakers that commenced with an oration by Col. J. C. Zabriskie on February 4, 1851, at the Sixth Street Congregational Church of Rev. Joseph A. Benton. The Reverend Benton would later become a prominent member of the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

When nearly a year old, the Mercantile Library Association had collected over four hundred volumes of valuable books, as well as papers from at least twenty-five states, but difficulties for the Association persisted.

The eighth and final lecture offered on June 24, 1851, regrettably saw diminished attendance. The Sacramento *Transcript* reported the following day that “The Mercantile Library Association has been languishing for months in consequence of the low state of its finances.”

With little fanfare, the reading room relocated to the second story of a building on J Street near the levee where the association’s treasurer managed a store. Mention of the organization rarely appeared in the newspaper. The last notice printed in the Sacramento *Transcript* occurred on January 19, 1852, and advertised mineral specimens on display in the reading room collected throughout California’s mining region. After that article, the

Mercantile Library Association of Sacramento disappeared from the written record.

When the Sacramento Pioneer Association held its first meeting on January 24, 1854, at Jones's Hotel on J Street, between Front and Second Streets, a respectable number of former Mercantile Library Association members promptly accepted committee appointments in the new organization. Some of these spirited Pioneers included Joseph W. Winans, James Queen, Dr. John F. Morse, and Judge C. C. Sackett. The Pioneer Association membership elected these same men among the organization's first officers and directors.

The Sacramento Pioneer Association stated its object "to cultivate the social virtues of its members" and "to collect and preserve information connected with the early settlement" of the Sacramento region. To further its agenda, as reported by the Sacramento *Daily Union* on December 22, 1854, President Jos. W. Winans announced a plan for "the procurement of a suitable suite of apartments, and the furnishing of them with newspapers and magazines, the founding of a library and cabinet of mineralogical and geological curiosities, and the immediate commencement of a course of public lectures to be delivered by distinguished essayists and orators, who shall be selected from various parts of the State." The plan shared remarkable similarities to the designs of the mercantile library.

In the early months of 1855, Rev. Jos. A Benton provided his Congregational church on Sixth Street as a venue for a series of lectures organized by the Sacramento Pioneer Association just as he did for the Mercantile Library Association. A San Francisco *Daily Alta California* article dated September 8, 1855, commended the Sacramento Pioneer Association for its library, reading room, and winter course of lectures.

By 1857, the Sacramento Pioneer Association possessed an admirable private library and its annual course of lectures proved popular. Dr. John F. Morse and James Queen, both former members of the Mercantile Library Association, served as Pioneer Association president and vice president, respectively.

The desire for a truly *public* library in Sacramento never diminished, especially among the original members of the Mercantile Library Association. On October 8, 1857, a large assortment of Sacramento residents, many who represented prominent businesses, gathered at Pioneer Hall on J Street to form the Sacramento Library Association. Subscribers to the new library society promptly

elected Jos. W. Winans as the organization's president; he had likewise served as first president of the Sacramento Pioneer Association in 1854. Winans formed a committee to draft a constitution, to which he appointed former Mercantile Library Association President C. C. Sackett, as well as James Queen and himself among others. Edgar Mills, brother of prominent banker D. O. Mills, served simultaneously as treasurer for both the Sacramento Pioneer Association and the Sacramento Library Association.

Article I of the Constitution stated: "This institution shall be incorporated, by the name of the SACRAMENTO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Its object shall be the establishment of a Library and Reading Room, the collection of Scientific Cabinets, Works of Art, Philosophical Apparatus, and other literary and scientific purposes."

The Sacramento Library opened to the public on November 6, 1857, in the rooms of Pioneer Hall on J Street. A Sacramento *Daily Union* article, which appeared in that day's newspaper, proposed: "Should the Pioneer Association determine to contribute their stock, (and there is no good reason why they should not,) the number of volumes will be increased to about one thousand."

The Sacramento Library Association vacated Pioneer Hall on March 10, 1858, and relocated to a presumably larger set of rooms in the new brick Tukey building on the corner of 5th and J Streets. The Sacramento Pioneers declined to relinquish their private collection of books to the library association. To celebrate the opening of the new reading rooms, the Sacramento Library Association arranged a lecture at none other than Rev. Jos. Benton's Sixth Street church.

The library achieved success enough that in 1872 the association purchased a lot on I Street, between Eighth and Ninth Streets, and erected a handsome brick building. Further prosperity, however, eluded the organization as it succumbed to the burden of debt imposed by the new real estate. In 1879, the board of directors transferred the assets of the Sacramento Library Association, including its library and building, to the City of Sacramento. So began the city's Free Public Library known now as the Sacramento Public Library – its Main Branch still located on I Street, between Eighth and Ninth Streets.

The Sacramento Public Library, twenty-nine years in the making from 1850 to 1879, evolved from earlier manifestations as the Sacramento Mercantile Association, the Sacramento Pioneer Association, and the Sacramento Library Association. Each of these preceding organizations shared members who possessed a civic-minded vision for the betterment of an adopted city that had welcomed them as pioneers, or as later immigrants, in the Golden State. ♦♦♦

1878 Pioneer Portraits A Generous Gift from Wendel Flint

The Sacramento Pioneer Association Board of Directors convened on October 18, 2021, for its regular monthly meeting, in an exceptionally well-renovated barn at the Galt ranch of Past President Wendel Flint. Through the course of the meeting, Wendel waited patiently for the board to conclude its business. Just prior to adjournment, he directed everyone's attention to a table upon which he had laid out two framed documents.

Wendel first presented for inspection the original land grant deed to his ranch dated around 1880 and signed by Sacramento Pioneer Association member and former Governor Newton Booth. Flint next presented the other document, being a collage of photographed portraits of members of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers given to him by Association member the late George Artz. Wendel offered this deeply meaningful photograph as a gift to the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

President Gould promptly entertained the following motion, which carried with unanimous approval:

Motion: Accept Past President Wendel Flint's historic framed 1878 photograph of the members of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers, by photographer John A. Todd, as a generous gift to the Sacramento Pioneer Association. The picture will be hung in the lobby of Pioneer Hall along with a plaque that acknowledges George Artz and Wendel Flint as former possessors of the artifact per the wishes of Wendel Flint.

In 1878, Sacramento photographer John A. Todd collected the portraits of one hundred and nine members of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers and arranged the portraits in a tasteful collage representative of the organization. Todd assigned a number to each member's portrait, which correlated with one hundred and nine names at the bottom of the photograph. Some of the more notable Pioneer names and faces include Nathaniel Goodell, Philetus Burnett, James McClatchy and Patrick Bannon.

George Artz, the 55th president of the Sacramento Pioneer Association and great-grandson of original Sacramento Pioneer Patrick Bannon, possessed an original print of the Pioneer portraits. He proudly displayed the framed photograph in his

Sacramento home for many years and showcased the vintage treasure during a 1997 Pioneer Association video interview conducted by Doug Yee, who served as chair of the Oral History Committee at the time.

George likely inherited the photograph after it passed from his great-grandfather, Patrick Bannon, to his grandmother, Maria Alice Cadogan, and then to his mother, Alice Maria Artz; each one an active member of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers. As a four-year-old boy on January 24, 1918, George himself attended a Pioneer Society event at James Marshall Park at 28th and J Streets where members gathered to unveil a plaque embedded in a granite boulder to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Marshall's discovery of gold.

Wendel promised that he would share the story of how he acquired the photograph of the Pioneer portraits from George Artz. We look forward to that tale, and to the unveiling of the historic photograph at Pioneer Hall. Until then, we offer our sincere appreciation for Wendel Flint and his generous gift to the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

SAVE THE DATE!

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION 2022 Annual Dinner Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022
5:30 p.m.

Del Paso Country Club
3333 Marconi Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821

Ticket Price and Menu including
Choice of Entrée & Dessert
To be announced

No host cash bar Complimentary Wine

Election of Officers & Directors

Scholarships Awarded



Formal Invitations will be mailed in February

2021 Annual Holiday Gala at the California Automobile Museum



Lori Gualco



Kris Quigley, Brian Withersell, Trisha Setzer



Anthony Dick, Charla King, Lynn Gray



Jim & Susan Craig, Linda & Thom Gilbert



Simone Rathe, Gordon MacAulay



Teresa & Jim Kriil



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2022

Monday, January 24

174th Anniversary of James Marshall's
discovery of gold at Coloma
No event planned

Thursday, March 10

SPA Annual Meeting at
Del Paso Country Club