

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 169TH YEAR

PIONEER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

AUTUMN EDITION



LAKE BIGLER.

Sketched from nature, by George H. Goddard.

President's Message

Saturday, September 17, 2022
Annual Picnic at Hemly Orchard

The Forgotten Works of
George H. Goddard

January 24, 2023
175th Anniversary of
James Marshall's Discovery
of Gold at Coloma

1878 Members Photo
Hangs in Pioneer Hall

Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



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Cover image: Civil engineer George Henry Goddard explored the southern shores of Lake Bigler as a member of the state wagon-road survey over the Sierra Nevada in August and September of 1855. On that expedition, Goddard sketched the first-ever picture of the beautiful mountain lake named for California's third governor, and Sacramento Pioneer Association member, John Bigler. A woodcut reproduction of Goddard's sketch appeared in the September 1857 issue of *Hutchings' California Magazine* accompanied by the artist's accurate observation, "There is no lake in California which, for beauty and variety of scenery, is to be compared to Lake Bigler." Today, most people know Lake Bigler by a different and more charming name: Lake Tahoe.

Sacramento Pioneer Association Pioneer Newsletter TM

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Sacramento Pioneer Association
1731 Howe Avenue, Box 639
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 447-7411

www.sacramentopioneer.org

sacramentopioneerassociation@gmail.com

President's Message

Greetings Pioneers,

Now that summer is winding down, our activities are winding up!

When you read this, the September 17 annual picnic at the Hemly Cider Orchard in Courtland will be fewer than two weeks away. I am sure that we'll all have a good time. Thanks to Katie Brown and Barb Collopy and their committee.

We still need a first-floor tenant for Pioneer Hall. The board met recently with David Herrera, our broker, who feels that the market downtown is improving, and we can hope for increased interest in our property.

Please keep in mind our ongoing membership drive. New members will only pay \$125 - one half of the normal fee of \$250. A really good deal!!

HAPPY FALL!!!

Regards, Bill

Half-Off Membership Drive

**Know someone who would
enjoy membership in the
Sacramento Pioneer Association?**

**From July 1st, 2022,
to December 31st, 2022,
the membership fee
for new members is only \$125
(half-off the regular \$250 fee).**

Tell a friend!



Dodransbicentennial?

Perhaps that is the proper Latin expression to denote a 175th anniversary.

Regardless of the correct terminology, Tuesday, January 24, 2023, marks the 175th anniversary of James Marshall's discovery of gold at Coloma. (It's also the 169th anniversary of the Sacramento Pioneer Association's very first meeting at Jones' Hotel on J Street, between Front and Second Streets.)

A wintery January Tuesday in the foothills at Coloma might make for a less than desirable date for an outdoor gathering, so the Pioneer Association will refrain from scheduling such an event. However, on the 28th of January, four days after the discovery of gold, Marshall arrived at Sutter's Fort to show John A. Sutter his new-found treasure.

January 28, 2023, happens to land on a Saturday - a preferable day for a get-together, no doubt, to celebrate such a significant event. There is still time for your Pioneer Association to consider an appropriate fashion to commemorate this landmark incident that transformed California. After all, a 175th anniversary only happens once.



A Prospecting Party

A cheerful prospecting party starting for the gold fields, drawn by George H. Goddard c. 1853, lithographed and published by Britton & Rey of San Francisco. The first in a series of four pictures, each additional drawing depicts the trials and tribulations faced by the luckless prospectors until they finally return to civilization with scruffy beards, tattered clothes, and little else, not even their mule, to show for their efforts. Image Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



The Forgotten Works of George H. Goddard

By Michael Shepard

A respectable granite monument resembling a rectangular, box-shaped chest, inscribed with the name *Felch*, stands tranquilly beneath the limbs of a noble English elm tree in the northeastern corner of Pioneer Grove at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. While not as grandiose as Mark Hopkin's imposing red granite mausoleum, Albert Maver Winn's elegant obelisk, or William Johnston's sublime allegorical statue of Hope, the modest Felch monument nevertheless suits Walton Cheever Felch, a former Sacramento sign maker and past president of the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

Ten unassuming headstones flank the Felch monument. Two of the grave markers belong to W. C. Felch and his wife, Harriet. Five of them belong to Sacramento Pioneer Association member Levi Hermance, wife Sarah, their son and two grandsons. The three remaining headstones in the Felch plat bear the name Goddard.

The Goddard surname appears nowhere in the historic membership rosters of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, or the rosters of the Sons and Daughters. This family's presence in Pioneer Grove piqued the curiosity of newsletter editor Michael Shepard as he descends from a long line of Goddards who trace their American lineage back to the 17th century arrival of patriarch William Goddard in Watertown, Massachusetts Bay Colony.

A thorough investigation ensued regarding the background of these Goddards, which produced a satisfactory result. In short, Pioneer Association members W. C. Felch and Levi Hermance had married sisters Harriet and Sarah Ferris making the Pioneer men brothers-in-law. Levi and Sarah's daughter, Fannie Hermance, moved in with her Aunt and Uncle Felch at the age of eleven following the deaths of her parents. Fannie later fell in love with a young man named Alexander A. Goddard, married, and started a family of her own. Later in life, Fannie served as executrix of her Aunt Harriet's estate. Thus, the Felch, Hermance and Goddard families all belong together. Any relation between Shepard's family and these Goddards diverged in the 1600s.

The research, however, uncovered an unexpected and intriguing story about Fannie's father-in-law George Henry Goddard (buried elsewhere) who should, by all accounts, be as famous in the annals of California history as Hubert Howe Bancroft if not for a most unfortunate twist of fate.

Thirty-three-year-old George Henry Goddard, an aspiring London civil engineer and architect (who had already designed a park in Addison Gardens and several houses to be built on Holland Villas Road) gave up his promising career for a risky but potentially lucrative venture. He sent his wife and three young children to live with his father-in-law, the Baron von Essen, in Wiesbaden, Prussia. Then, on April 5, 1850, he boarded the British barque *Diana* and sailed 180 days from London to arrive in San Francisco on October 2, 1850. Though late to reach the Pacific shore by the standard of forty-niners, Henry Goddard nevertheless hoped to seek his fortune in gold.

One month after his arrival, Goddard set off for the southern mines by way of Stockton. He detailed much of his early experiences in California within letters written to his brother in England, many of which now reside at the California State Library. One such letter, mentioned in a biographical vignette authored by Albert Shumate for The Friends of the Bancroft Library in 1969, reveals that Goddard deviated from his trip to the mines, and instead traveled to Mariposa in pursuit of a job to survey the estate of Col. John C. Frémont. Goddard waited through the winter and into the spring of 1851 for Frémont's return from Washington, D. C., the colonel's term as California's first senator having just expired. The civil engineer occupied himself with unsuccessful attempts at mining, and sketching the Mariposa countryside. Ill fortune would have it that, upon Frémont's return, the ex-senator refused to hire Goddard.

Mining as well as a mercantile venture in the town of Columbia in 1852 and 1853 proved just as dismal for Goddard as had been his Mariposa undertaking. His portfolio of drawings, however, expanded.

In 1853, Goddard participated in a survey expedition for the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad Company, just one of the many transcontinental railroad enterprises that unsuccessfully sought congressional funding. Goddard's career, nevertheless, had taken a step in the right direction. A San Francisco developer took notice of the English civil engineer, architect, surveyor, and artist, and hired him in 1854 to design South Park ornamental garden, a 500-foot-long, wrought iron-enclosed, oval park. The park still exists between Second, Third, Brannan and Bryant Streets in San



San Francisco.

Soon after, lithographers Britton & Rey hired Goddard to prepare a new map of the Kern River and the Great Tulare Valley. A March 4, 1855, article in the *Daily Alta California* informed that the map derives from recent surveys “of the U. S. Topographical Corps, U. S. Land Surveys, and other services, and is compiled by G. H. Goddard, C. E.”

A significant career opportunity for Goddard unfolded when Governor John Bigler, on April 28, 1855, signed legislation to authorize state funding for a wagon road survey through the Sierra Nevada to the Carson Valley. Goddard joined the expedition led by civil engineer Sherman Day. An auxiliary mission assigned specifically to Goddard included the establishment of California’s eastern boundary with that of Utah Territory. During the completion of his task, Goddard sketched the first known picture of Lake Tahoe, known at the time as Lake Bigler (named after California’s third governor and member of the Sacramento Pioneer Association).

Hutchings’ California Magazine reproduced the sketch of the mountain lake as a woodcut print and published the image in its September 1857 issue along with a narrative written by Goddard regarding the environment surrounding the beautiful lake. He concluded that “the 120th meridian of west longitude divides the lake pretty equally, giving its western shore to California and its eastern to Utah.”

George Goddard applied his topographical artistry to the data collected during the state wagon survey and produced the most accurate-to-date map of California. The editor of the *Sacramento Daily Union* commended the artist in the newspaper’s June 12, 1857, issue: “A beautiful copy of Britton & Rey’s edition of George H. Goddard’s map of the State of California, was yesterday laid upon our table by the compiler. It is just from the press, and has the reputation of being the best map of the State yet published, embracing as it does the latest United States Surveys, and correcting the egregious errors of all its predecessors.”

Employers continued to seek out the civil engineer for various projects. Goddard conducted a survey for Mountain Lake Water Company of San Francisco in 1857, he completed several cartography assignments for the War Department in connection with the Pacific Railroad. He also surveyed with Theodore Judah for the Central Pacific Railroad.

In 1857, Goddard revisited his architectural background for a project in Sacramento. In a letter to his brother he wrote, “I have a little design for an entrance gate, lodge, bell tower, and chapel at the Sacramento cemetery, chosen by the city corporation, and it is now being erected under my supervision as an architect.” Unfortunately, the City

of Sacramento removed Goddard’s structures in 1949 during the widening of Broadway.

George Goddard’s wife, daughter and one son finally joined him in California in 1858. Eldest son Alexander A. Goddard completed his education in France and made the trip to America a few years later. The Goddard family moved to San Francisco from Sacramento in 1862, except for Alexander who remained in Sacramento and taught French at the high school before he established a long career with the Southern Pacific Railroad. Alexander married Fannie Hermance, daughter of Sacramento Pioneer Association member Levi Hermance and niece of Sacramento Pioneer Association past President W. C. Felch. Alexander and Fannie Goddard rest in the Felch plat of Pioneer Grove.

Several of George Goddard’s drawings appeared in print such as his *Sonora from the North*, and another just titled *Sonora*, along with *Springfield, Tuolumne County*, all lithographed by Britton & Rey in 1853. Britton & Rey also produced an outstanding rendition of Goddard’s 1868 *A Bird’s Eye View of San Francisco*. Of all George’s works, his 1855 Map of California remains his most significant, and probably provided the impetus for William Brewer on his 1864 California Geological Survey to name a 13,500 foot peak in Fresno County after the British surveyor - Mount Goddard.

At the turn of the century, George Goddard had amassed during his lifetime a collection of more than one thousand sketches, drawings and paintings by his own hand, a vast array of minerals and geological samples collected on his travels throughout the state, as well as countless notes and journals. Mrs. Leland Stanford hoped to obtain the entirety of Goddard’s magnificent collection, which she intended to house in a special building to be called the Goddard Museum at Stanford University. Perhaps the University of California’s acquisition of Hubert Howe Bancroft’s collection of works in 1905 inspired Mrs. Stanford’s vision. By all accounts, George H. Goddard should be as famous in the annals of California history as Hubert Howe Bancroft.

Unfortunately, on April 18, 1906, a massive earthquake struck California and devastated San Francisco where Goddard lived and stored his treasures. The unrelenting fires that followed caused even more destruction throughout the city. George H. Goddard lost a lifetime of his collected works. George survived the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, but he died a broken man shortly after on December 27, 1906, at the age of 89.



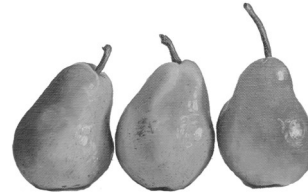
A New Wall Hanging at Pioneer Hall



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. The portrait and a commemorative plaque now hang in the lobby of Pioneer Hall thanks to the foresight of George Artz and the generosity of Wendel Flint.



Sacramento Pioneer Association Annual Summer Picnic



In the Sacramento River Delta at the
HEMLY CIDER ORCHARD
12345 River Rd. Courtland, CA



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022
5 PM to 8 PM

MENU: Hosted Cider Bar

(both hard cider & non-alcoholic sparkling juices)

Point Reyes Blue Cheese and Vinaigrette Salad -

Green Beans & Grilled Eggplant -

Summer Vegetable Pasta Salad -

Potato Salad with Herbs & Grilled Onion -

Grilled Chicken with Olive Caper Herb Salata -

Fresh Baked Bread - Salt Toffee Brownies -

Pear & Blackberry Crumb Bars - Cookie Selection

\$55/person Members

\$65/person Guest/Inactive Members

\$30 Children under 16

Please R.S.V.P. by September 9, 2022.

NO refunds after that date!

sacramentopioneerassociation@gmail.com





Bird's Eye View of San Francisco. Drawn by George H. Goddard, entered according to act of Congress in the year 1868 by Snow & May in the Clerks Office in the U. S. District court for the northern district of California. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.



Fannie Goddard (née Hermance) the link between the Felch, Hermance and Goddard families. Photo courtesy of Sara MacDonald.



Entrance Gateway, Chapel, & Lodge Cemetery.

In a letter dated April 19, 1857, Henry Goddard wrote his brother: "I have a little design for an entrance, gate, lodge, bell tower, and chapel at the Sacramento cemetery, chosen by the city corporation, and it is now being erected under my supervision as an architect." Image from *A Bird's-Eye View of Sacramento*, Lithography of Britton & Rey, 1857.



Sacramento Pioneer Association
1731 Howe Ave, #639
Sacramento, CA 95825-2209

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Calendar of Events

2022

Saturday, September 17

SPA Annual Picnic, at
Hemly Cider Orchard near Courtland

Thursday, December 1
(date subject to change)

SPA Annual Holiday Party, tentatively at
SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity

2023

Tuesday, January 24
(event in the works)

175th anniversary of James Marshall's
discovery of gold at Coloma

Thursday, March 9
(date subject to change)

SPA Annual Dinner Meeting at
Del Paso Country Club