

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 170TH YEAR

PIONEER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

SUMMER EDITION



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Pioneer Grove

Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



In Memoriam

Jack Diepenbrock

Beejae Livingston Shepard

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Cover image: The twenty-eight-foot-tall granite obelisk that memorializes Albert Maver Winn, erected by the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West on November 29, 1888, stands majestically surrounded by trees in Pioneer Grove. In the foreground and to the left of the obelisk appears the shorter monument of James McGuire who served on the original committee in 1861 tasked with selecting suitable ground at the City Cemetery for use by the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

Photo by Michael Shepard

Sacramento Pioneer Association Pioneer Newsletter TM

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President's Message

Greetings Pioneers!

I am thrilled to provide you with information on our fabulous scholarship recipients in this message. The academic scholarships were awarded on March 9 at the annual meeting. We received 18 applications from students this year and 16 of them were from McClatchy High School. In recognition of the high quality of the applicants and the hardships of the past several years in education, the Board decided to award four, as opposed to three, \$5,000 scholarships this year. All four recipients attended the annual dinner with family members. Let's get to know the recipients:

The first scholarship recipient is Adeleiz Ore. She is a senior at McClatchy High School in the HISP program, an academically challenging 4-year specialized program. Besides having high SAT test scores, over a 4-point grade point average, and ranking number 1 out of 547 students, she is actively involved in numerous activities. Those activities include Visual Arts and Performing Arts Program, German Club, Ecology Club, Land Park Soccer, Theater, Sacramento Historical Fencing Academy and Young Scholars Program at UC Davis. Her volunteer activities include Summer Camp Counselor for refugee kids at Camp Nefesh and Girl Scouts. She has received many honors and awards and was in several academic honor societies. Adelaide will continue her studies at Case Western Reserve University in the fall. She will be pursuing undergraduate and advanced degrees in bioengineering.

The second scholarship recipient is Ethan Machado. He is a senior at McClatchy High School in the HISP program, an academically challenging 4-year specialized program. Besides having high SAT test scores, over a 4-point grade point average, and ranking number 1 out of 547 students (2 students tied for number 1 in the class), he is involved in several activities. Those activities include EKM Community Cycling Club, YMCA Youth and Government Program, and CKM Model United Nations Club. His volunteer activities include Summer Camp Counselor for refugee kids at Camp Nefesh and the YMCA youth summer camp. He has received a number of honors and awards and was in an academic honor society. Ethan will continue his studies at Columbia University in the fall pursuing studies associated with public policy.

The third scholarship recipient is Sage Urban. She is a senior at McClatchy High School. Sage

maintains over a 4-point grade point average, and ranking number 50 out of 547, and is involved in several activities. Those activities include founding the Book Club, Key Club, and Varsity Tennis. Her volunteer activities include serving on the Sacramento Youth Commission, Summer Coach for kids' tennis, SCUSD Summer Ambassador program and tutoring kids in academics at Bret Harte Elementary School. She has received several academic awards. Sage will continue her studies in the fall at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The fourth scholarship recipient is Solomae Getahun. She is a senior at McClatchy High School in the HISP program, an academically challenging 4-year specialized program. Besides having high SAT test scores, over a 4-point grade point average, and ranking number 10 out of 547 students, she is actively involved in numerous activities. Those activities include founding the Ethiopian Women's Coalition, SCUSD Student Body Representative, Amnesty International Chapter- Founder, Black Students of California United- Black Health Ambassador, Summer of H.E.R. and Girl Scouts. Her volunteer activities include St. John's Women's and Children's Shelter, and WIND Youth Services. She has received several honors and awards. Solomae will continue her studies at Harvard University in the fall, joining her older sister. She will be pursuing an undergraduate degree in business.

In other news of the Pioneer Association, our events continue to be very much enjoyed by Pioneer participants. The day trip to the San Joaquin County History Museum in Lodi was a big success. The annual picnic will take place on either September 16 or 23, depending on our intended venue, Sutter's Fort's schedule. Pioneers have already begun signing up for the day and/or overnight trip to Minden, Nevada in October.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and fun summer! We'll see you in the fall.

Best regards,
Lori

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

**Sacramento Pioneer Association
P. O. Box 292398
Sacramento, CA 95829**

The Formative Years of Pioneer Grove

By Michael Shepard

The noon hour approached as the steamer *Antelope* docked at Sacramento city's river landing at the foot of K Street. A committee of eight Sacramento Pioneers patiently waited for fellow Pioneer J. R. Hardenbergh to disembark, and to solemnly receive the cargo that he accompanied: a rosewood coffin that contained the mortal remains of James Blackwell Starr.

J. B. Starr, the well-known auctioneer from Sacramento's earliest days and the first vice president of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, died in San Francisco two days prior on October 12, 1862, at the age of fifty-two. John H. Carroll, president of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, called a special meeting on the evening of November 13 to arrange the funeral for the organization's esteemed brother. The remains of the deceased arrived from San Francisco on November 14 to be escorted to Pioneer Hall located at the time in the firehouse of Mutual Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 on Third Street between I and J Streets.

Pioneers gathered in their Hall at 2 PM and the Reverend Joseph A. Benton conducted services at the well-attended funeral. Former Director John G. Hyer, Esq., delivered a eulogy filled with Victorian prose and morbid contemplation: "...we cannot forget that he was a Pioneer, one of those by whose vigor and energy our destinies were moulded [*sic*], and by whose right arms the prosperity of this State has been established. His death affords us a topic of reflection. It brings forcibly to our minds the truth that the Grim King is narrowing his circle around our band, and that we, too, soon must pass away. Whilst we remain let us be true to ourselves; and as death, sweeping along, shall cause us one by one to fall, let those remaining close up the ranks and, like the Old Guard, stand shoulder to shoulder to the last."

With the initial services completed, pall bearers transferred the coffin to an awaiting hearse. The Sacramento Brass Band led a funeral procession that included numerous carriages, buggies and omnibuses as well as the members of the Pioneer Association and friends on foot. According to the *Sacramento Daily Union* dated October 15, 1862, "The cortege proceeded to the City Cemetery, and the remains of the deceased were buried in the new plot of the Association, it being the first interment in the plot."

The Sacramento Pioneer Association, a society whose shared experiences as California pioneers forged a life-long brotherhood among its members,

had prepared for a time when those adventurous trailblazers named within its roster would retire from this world. In foresight of Hyer's notion that "the Grim King is narrowing his circle around our band," the Association's board of directors, during a meeting held on October 20, 1861, appointed a committee comprised of D. O. Mills, James McGuire, James Queen, and President J. H. Carroll to select a suitable plot at the City Cemetery for the use of the Association. The Pioneers purchased ground on the cemetery's west side and planned to improve the new acquisition.

In March of 1862, the Sacramento City Board of Supervisors addressed a petition submitted by the Pioneers to purchase an additional lot of ground adjacent to that already owned for the sum of \$50. The board approved the request and ordered the clerk to execute a deed.

At an Association meeting on April 26, 1862, the cemetery committee reported that it had graded the Pioneer plot, built a brick wall, and planted shrubbery. The committee also presented the Association with a framed map of the plot.

Pioneers needed only to wait six months until the death of J. B. Starr before they put their new burial ground to use. Fortunately, the death of Association members remained uncommon throughout the 1860s. By December of 1869, only eleven Pioneers occupied the cemetery.

Stephen B. Freeland, one of Sacramento's first post masters and the first librarian of the Sacramento Library, followed J. B. Starr as the next Pioneer interred in the hallowed ground in February of 1864. Once again J. G. Hyer delivered a eulogy in which he repeated similar sentiments: "Another time we are reminded that our circle is narrowing; another member has been lost to us; another link in the chain of brotherhood has been severed."

Colonel D. M. Boyd, who died in October of 1865, became the third Pioneer interred in Pioneer Grove. While traditional, modest headstones with rounded oval tops mark the graves of both Starr and Freeland, the Association authorized Boyd's executors "to erect a monument over his remains," according to the *Sacramento Daily Union* dated November 27, 1865. Nearly four and a half years passed before executors placed Boyd's memorial. On March 8, 1869, the *Daily Union* reported that, "Devine Brothers, marble workers, have just completed a large and beautiful monument, which will this afternoon be placed over the remains of Colonel D. M. Boyd, in the Pioneer plat, City Cemetery, upon which occasion members of the

Pioneer Association are invited to be present.” The monument takes the form of an Egyptian obelisk; it stands perhaps seven feet tall and still occupies the south-westernmost corner of Pioneer Grove.

Under the auspices of President James McClatchy in April of 1869, the Sacramento Pioneer Association acquired another addition to the plat owned by the society. Apparently, the ground already contained remains. When the cemetery committee wished to improve the property, new Association President A. Leonard requested that the Sacramento City Board of Supervisors remove the bodies. According to a *Sacramento Daily Union* article dated December 19, 1871, “The conditions of the sale having been that the association would remove the bodies at its own expense, the application was denied;” however, “It was ordered that the alleys and avenues within the cemetery plat sold to the Pioneer Association in April, 1869, be and they are hereby vacated.”

The cemetery committee presented, and the board of directors approved rules and regulations for the government of the Pioneer burial grounds on December 27, 1873. These rules included the establishment of a board of trustees to oversee all maintenance, improvements, and repairs. The directive designated six lots to be reserved for members in good standing who otherwise had no other burial place. In 1877, the cemetery committee began to mark the graves of these indigent members with small but tasteful plates made of zinc inscribed with the name of the deceased, vital dates, and the crossed pick and shovel symbol of the Association. The rules and regulations emphatically stated, “No portion of the cemetery shall be sold except to a member in good standing, and forever after remain in the possession of a Pioneer or his descendants.” Finally, the regulations appointed the secretary of the Association to maintain a book “known as the Cemetery Register” that contained all the “particulars” of each burial.

The fifteenth anniversary of the admission of California into the Union on September 9, 1865, offered the opportunity for a grand Pioneer collation with proceeds donated to the burial ground. The Association organized an excursion to Freeport via Sacramento Valley Railroad cars accompanied by a full band of musicians. The outing promised refreshments including fish chowder, sailing or fishing aboard several Whitehall boats reserved for the event, and dancing in the evening at the railroad company’s Freeport depot. The Association advertised, “Tickets for the occasion (for a Gentleman and Lady), two dollars and fifty cents – can be had at the principal book stores, and at Dale and Hammer’s Music Stores, and of the Committee

of Arrangements. The surplus funds will be appropriated for improving the Pioneer Cemetery Lot. Citizens and strangers are invited to unite in celebration.” Pioneers later established a burial fund “by taxing all members of the society 25 cents upon the death of each member; \$75 of this fund to be paid to the family or friends of the deceased towards defraying the funeral expenses.”

By January 1, 1874, the Pioneers had acquired two and one third acres in the City Cemetery according to the *Sacramento Daily Union*. Perhaps to generate revenue, or to straighten up the borders of the burial ground, the Association advertised lots for sale to the public. These lots would presumably no longer be part of the Pioneer burial ground, so the rule concerning Pioneer-only burials would not be broken. The advertisement ran from December 1878 to January 1879 in the *Sacramento Daily Union* and read: “Lots in the Pioneer Cemetery, south of Main avenue, are offered for sale to the public, said plat having been surveyed and laid off in lots 20x20 feet. Inquire of Superintendent City Cemetery; or Secretary of Sacramento Society of California Pioneers, Pioneer Hall.”

The *Daily Union* did not report any deed transfers filed with the County recorder around that time, so it remains uncertain whether any sales occurred. The Pioneers, however, did acquire more ground on June 30, 1880, through the generous gift of Mrs. E. B. Crocker, widow of Judge Edwin Bryant Crocker. The Center for Sacramento History currently holds in its archive a map of Mrs. E. B. Crocker’s addition to the Pioneer’s cemetery.

Shortly after Mrs. Crocker’s grant, Central Pacific Railroad Treasurer and Sacramento Pioneer Association member Mark Hopkins occupied the impressive red granite mausoleum on October 19, 1880, erected by his estate over a period of nearly two years after his death. The Hopkins Mausoleum, built on the highest ground in the Old City Cemetery, remains the centerpiece of Pioneer Grove. Other grand monuments followed including Albert Maver Winn’s magnificent obelisk funded by the Native Sons of the Golden West, and Senator William Johnston’s towering yet graceful allegorical statue of *Hope*.

The Sacramento Pioneer Association continues to own Pioneer Grove and preserves the two-and-a-half acre historic memorial park through the stewardship of the Cemetery Trust and the cemetery maintenance committee. Visitors invariably find the Pioneer’s well-tended burial ground to be peaceful and serene, and a place for historical contemplation.





New May Woolsey Exhibit at the Sacramento History Museum Sponsored by Pioneers

An ordinary twelve-year-old girl growing up in Sacramento in 1879, May Hollister Woolsey performed well in school, she enjoyed her dolls, kept a diary, sketched portraits, and looked forward to a schoolmate's birthday party and to the new dress she planned to wear for the occasion.

Young Miss Woolsey never attended the party. She became ill from a bacterial or viral infection, possibly from a mosquito bite, that caused encephalitis – an inflammation of the brain. She died on September 21, 1879, at her home on E Street.

One hundred years passed, and in 1979 the owner of the old Woolsey house began a renovation project. When he removed the lath and plaster under the staircase to make space for a closet or cabinets, he discovered an old steamer trunk full of artifacts, six hundred in all, that had once belonged to May Hollister Woolsey. The one-hundred-year-old chest had been lovingly filled and hidden away by May's grieving mother.

In 1981, or thereabout, the Sacramento Pioneer Association purchased the trunk and its contents, and then donated the historic time capsule to the Center for Sacramento History. The Sacramento History Museum on I Street in Old Sacramento obtained the May Woolsey artifacts on loan and unveiled a new exhibit this past Memorial Day Weekend that features the story of May and her wonderful collection of 19th century treasures.

A reproduction of the trunk and its contents has been made so that visitors can actually hold replicas

of May's possessions. The actual trunk and many of the artifacts can be viewed on display within a plexiglass case. The exhibit also contains a new "tactile graphic and audio component" designed by 3DPhotoWorks "to deliver accessible and inclusive images to the blind, disabled and sighted communities," according to Delta Pick Mello, Executive Director of the Sacramento History Alliance.

In 2022, the Sacramento Pioneer Association sponsored the reimagining of the May Hollister Woolsey exhibit as an ongoing commitment to share the extraordinary story of an ordinary Sacramento girl.



May Woolsey's trunk and its contents

Pioneers Enjoy Excursion to Lodi Museum

About forty Pioneers attended a tour and picnic lunch at the San Joaquin County History Museum in Lodi on May 7. It was a picture-perfect day at the facility in Micke Grove Park. Enthusiastic docents shared details about historical buildings located throughout the grounds. The museum itself had interesting displays detailing life of early California in the Central Valley. Pioneers concluded their visit by enjoying a picnic lunch in the museum's Walled Garden. Mama Kim of Poppy Catering prepared the food, which was delicious as usual.

For those of you unable to join us at this event, we recommend making the trek to Lodi and seeing the museum for yourself!

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Invites you to join us for a

Picnic lunch at the Dangberg Home Ranch
Historic Park in Minden, Nevada

Saturday, October 7th, 2023

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Afterward, check into your hotel room and relax
before cocktails at the home of Trisha & Mark Setzer.

Top the day off with a trip to
JT Basque Bar & Dining for dinner.

- Stay a night or two. Travel and hotel on your own (approximately 2 1/2 hour drive from Sacramento)
- Book your stay at the Carson Valley Inn & Casino for \$149.00 per night with two night minimum or \$179.00 for one night. One King or Two Queens. For reservations, please call (775) 783-6629. Use block room rate code 4144.
- H. F. Dangberg, a young German immigrant, came to the Carson Valley in 1856, worked hard and prospered. He and his descendants built a ranching empire that came to include 48,000 acres. In 1905, the family founded the town of Minden, named after H. F.'s hometown of Minden, Germany. One of our own Pioneer members had an uncle who married into the Dangberg family.

\$70 per member & \$80 per non-member

Price includes picnic lunch, cocktails at the Setzer's, and dinner at JT's.

More details to follow.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events 2023

Saturday, September 16 or 23	Annual Picnic at Sutter's Fort
Saturday, October 7	Overnight trip to the Dangberg Ranch Minden, Nevada (details to follow)
Thursday, December 7	Holiday Party (location to be announced)

JUNE 2023