

AUGUST
2008



Volume XCV
Number 8

TRESTLEBOARD

Amity Lodge No. 442, F. & A. M

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Amity Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

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IN SEPTEMBER

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September Stated Meeting**

contact us

**Lodge Office
619-291-0465
FAX
619-291-1364**

PRESIDENTIAL FACTS - DID YOU KNOW?

Record Setters:

TALLEST: Abraham Lincoln (6 feet, 4 inches) **SHORTEST:** James Madison (5feet, 4 inches) **HEAVIEST:** William Howard Taft (over 300 pounds) **BIGGEST FEET:** Warren G. Harding at size 14 **YOUNGEST ELECTED:** John F. Kennedy (43) **YOUNGEST TO TAKE OFFICE:** Theodore Roosevelt (42) **OLDEST ELECTED:** Ronald Reagan (69) **LONGEST-LIVED:** Gerald Ford (93 years, 166 days) **LONGEST TIME IN OFFICE:** Franklin D. Roosevelt (12 years) **SHORTEST TIME IN OFFICE:** William Henry Harrison (32 days)

First President Who Was:

BORN A U.S. CITIZEN: Martin Van Buren **BORN WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI:** Herbert Hoover (Iowa) **BORN IN A LOG CABIN:** Andrew Jackson **BORN IN A HOSPITAL:** Jimmy Carter **BEARDED:** Abraham Lincoln **A BEARDED DEMOCRAT:** none **ASSASSINATED:** Abraham Lincoln **IMPEACHED:** Andrew Johnson **A BOOMER:** Bill Clinton.

First President Who:

DIED IN OFFICE: William Henry Harrison **ATTENDED A MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME:** Benjamin Harrison **SPOKE ON RADIO:** Warren G. Harding **APPEARED ON TELEVISION:** Franklin D. Roosevelt **ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL PARK:** Ulysses S. Grant (Yellowstone) **PRESIDED OVER 50 STATES:** Dwight D. Eisenhower **APPOINTED A WOMAN TO HIS CABINET:** Franklin D. Roosevelt (Frances Perkins) **APPOINTED AN AFRICAN AMERICAN TO HIS CABINET:** Lyndon B. Johnson (Robert C. Weaver)

Only President Who:

DIDN'T LIVE IN WASHINGTON: George Washinton **WAS DEFEATED BY VICE PRESIDENT:** John Adams by Thomas Jefferson **FOUNDEDA UNIVERSITY:** Thomas Jefferson (University of Virginia) **COULD WRITE WITH BOTH HANDS AT THE SAME TIME IN TWO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES:** James Garfield **HANGED PEOPLE:** Grover Cleveland as a county sheriff **SERVED TWO NON-CONSECUTIVE TERMS:** Grover Cleveland **LATER SERVED AS SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE:** William Howard Taft **WAS SWORN INTO OFFICE BY HIS FATHER:** Calvin Coolidge by John Calvin Coolidge **RESIGNED:** Richard Nixon **SERVED AS BOTH VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT WITHOUT BEING ELECTED TO EITHER OFFICE:** Gerald Ford **SURVIVED A BULLET WOUND WHILE IN OFFICE:** Ronald Reagan **EARNED A PH.D.:** Woodrow Wilson **EARNED AN MBA:** George W. Bush **SERVED IN THE 20TH CENTURY AND DIDN'T GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE:** Harry S. Truman

TRESTLEBOARD BY EMAIL

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5 & 6-8
additional
articles and
information for
email
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TRESTLEBOARD
Amity Lodge #442

Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Amity Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA

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Printing by: PIP Printing 619-528-8000

Distribution: Harry Besnoy

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AL BAHR SHRINE WESTERN NIGHT

We have received and invitation to this event to be held on Saturday, September 6, 2008. Kicking off with a No Host you know what at 6:00 p.m. and Grub served 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Included in the festivities are: Dancing to "Two

Lane Highway", line dances and Western Style Casino, a best costume contest and a silent auction.

Break out your Western Duds, kick the dust off your boots, grab your favorite Gal and head down to the

Shrine Corral for a great evening of Western Fun.

Only \$35.00 per person. Advance ticket sales from the Recorder's Office at 858-292-0092.

MASONIC INFORMATION NIGHT

The thirteenth semi-annual countywide Masonic Information Night is scheduled at the Scottish Rite Center for Wednesday, September 10, 2008. The event will begin with dinner served at 6:00 PM, followed by the Masonic Information program at 7:30 PM. Our speaker will be Worshipful Robert E. Winterton Sr., Past Master of El Cajon Valley Lodge No. 576 (now known as Heartland Lodge No. 576).

The Scottish Rite bodies of San Diego will

provide a complementary dinner for all Masons and their guests. While there is no charge for dinner, reservations must be made in advance. Please call the Scottish Rite office at (619) 293-4888 to make reservations or use the Scottish Rite website. The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 5, 2008.

We hope to make this a family affair. There will be free childcare provided for the children of our members and guests. There will be

refreshments for the children, as well as good wholesome entertainment.

You are encouraged to start planning now to attend and to bring potential candidates. Even without a potential candidate, you should plan to attend and assist in providing non-Masons with a positive impression of Masonry. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this event, please call the Scottish Rite Office at (619) 293-4888.

The 497th Masonic District cordially invites you to attend The Grand Master's Reception and San Diego County's Annual Mason of the Year Awards Program

Awards will be presented by
The Most Worshipful Richard Wakefield Hopper
Grand Master of Masons in California

Scottish Rite Masonic Memorial Center
1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108

Saturday, August 30, 2008

Social Hour at 5:00 p.m. : Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Mason of the Year Awards at 7:00 p.m.

\$25.00 per person with RSVP required by August 22

Serafin "Bing" Pascua - serafin_pascua@cox.net - 619-471-7507 or

Jay Mamuyac - jvmamuyac@sbcglobal.net - 619-316-7340

Make checks payable to: 497th Masonic District Officers Association
mail to: Lemon Grove Lodge #736 at 2590 Main Street, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Note: if you make a reservation and are unable to attend, please contact one of the above to cancel or you will be billed for your reservation.

BIRTHDAYS FROM THE EAST

Paul Wilton	8/2
Adam Torres	8/4
Perry Hooper	8/5
Carlton Philadelphia	8/6
Joven Martinez	8/7
Charles Hoffman	8/7
Gary Hollcraft	8/7
Ernest Miller	8/7
David Tobias	8/7
Robert Newman	8/8
C. Robert Millhouse	8/10
Rodolfo Bayle, PM	8/11
Patrick Nichols	8/13
Mark Sandoval	8/14
Richard Mazo	8/15
C. Rovbert Shaw, PM	8/15
James Furrh, Jr.	8/16
Matt Kaufman	8/16
Romeo Orje	8/18
Zachary Saltzman	8/19
Michael Lane	8/20
Carlos Bacsal	8/21
Kenneth Littrel	8/21
Ely De Los Reyes	8/22
Edward Cook	8/22
Teodorico Napalan	8/23
Alex Royter	8/23
Daniel McBride	8/24
Benjamin Salvania	8/26
Melvin Stanley	8/26

Average age = 56.8 years old
Oldest = 97 years old
Youngest = 22 years old

Happy Birthday to these Brethren!
We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.

Brethren,
The month of July saw the Lodge initiate two new members. Welcome to the craft Brothers Boalanger and Hernandez. We also had several 2nd degrees. Hopefully this means we may have a few more 3rd Degrees before the end of the year. Please plan on attending and seeing some of the excellent ritual work being performed by your officers. We always need sideliners to encourage and congratulate the candidates and maybe fill a vacant officer chair on occasion.

This leads me to discussing the officers for next year. If any of our new

HELP - WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE

We must update our Lodge records and we need your assistance to complete information on the following members for whom we have either incorrect or incomplete address and phone in-

formation. Please call or email the Secretary with ANY information you may have on these brethren. Avelino L. Reyes, Jr. Daniel Ober, Sr. Herman C. Duriano

Master Masons would like to consider filling a Steward or Chaplin's position, please contact the Secretary or Brother Chris Quimpo. Be sure to mark your calendar for the All Masonic Picnic to be held on August 9th at Admiral Baker Field. Admission and parking are free for you, and your family, as well as, your non-Masonic friends. Let's have a great turnout for our first year as a new lodge.

Also plan to join us at the Grand Master's Reception and Mason of the Year Presentation on August 30th. The evening will begin with social hour at 5:00 PM, to be followed by diner and

the presentations of awards. The Grand Master will honor nominees for Mason of the Year, including Brother Chris Quimpo, that evening. Reservations are necessary. Please call Brother Arnold Korey before August 22nd to ensure a seat.

I look forward to seeing you at each of these planned events and the August Stated Meeting.

We will be dark in August except for the Stated Meeting. The Secretary will be in the office and I can be reached at home if necessary.

Fraternally,
Harold Thurber WM

Bagley R. Marvin
Patrick Nichols
Iva Wilson
Scott A. Brooks
Adrano P. Pecadeso
Teodorico A. Napalan
Reynaldo L. Guerrero

FROM THE SECRETARY

Brethren,
I want to thank those that have sent in there dues and if you haven't you can still do so. I want to apologize if a late notice was sent and your dues were current. Sometime letters cross in the mail.

With the Lodge

being dark this month you can still reach me as I will be in and out of the office during this time working on several matters that are needed to keep our records up to date. You may call using the Lodge phone number 619-291-0465 or the home number listed in the

Trestleboard. I will return you call as soon as possible.

If any member of the lodge would like a Masonic funeral please drop me a note so I can put it in your file for future reference and also make sure your family is aware of your desires so that you can have

a proper remembrance. We have included a form that you can fill out and return to the Lodge. I hope all of you are enjoying your summer and look forward to seeing you soon in Lodge.

Arnold L. Korey, Secretary

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2008."

Please be considerate and make your dinner reservations early. If you are going to come to one of our dinners, make reservations. Two days in advance is sufficient, but please reserve.

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Scottish Rite Center
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Immediate Past Masters	ERNIE ASTUDILLO and MIKE ZDRAVKOIVIC

AUGUST 2008 CALENDAR

August

Mon 4th	Dark
Thurs 7th	STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465. Attire: Hawaiian or Barong Tagalog
Sat 9th	All Masonic Picnic at Admiral Baker Field, 10am - 3pm - see Secretary or Scottish Rite for parking pass
Mon 11th	Dark
Thurs 14th	Dark
Mon 18th	Dark
Thurs 21st	Dark
Mon 25th	Dark
Thurs 28th	Dark
Sat 30th	Grand Master's Reception and Mason of the Year Award Program - see flyer in Trestlboard

NOTE: Officers' attire: First and Second Degrees is coat and tie or Barong Tagalog, Third Degrees it is TUXEDO.

September

Mon 1st	Labor Day - Enjoy
Thurs 4th	STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465. Attire: Discuss 2008 Grand Lodge Legislation

AUGUST STATED MEETING DINNER MENU



BBQ Beef and Snapper
 Scalloped Potatoes and Rolls
 Zucchini and Squash and Salad
 Beverages and Spice Cake



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA

There is a Wayfaring Man - continued

John Bidwell

Archetypical of these pioneers was John Bidwell who organized the Bid-well-Bartleson Company, first American immigrant outfit to reach California.

Born in Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York, August 5, 1819, Bidwell began to move westward in leisurely stages at the age of ten, when he accompanied his parents first to Pennsylvania, and from there to Ohio. At the age of seventeen, he walked three hundred miles across Ohio through slush and snow from Darke to Ashtabula County to attend Kingsville Academy. He was appointed principal of this academy only a year later, and might have continued so indefinitely had it not been for his desire to see the West. By June, 1839, after a brief sojourn in Iowa, he was teaching school not far from Weston, in Platte County, Missouri. Here he accumulated a little money and filed claim to a piece of land, intending to settle upon it. But, on returning from a business trip to St. Louis, in the summer of 1840, he found that a squatter had jumped his claim, and there was little he could do about it. Among other things, the law of Missouri specifically stated that a man must be twenty-one years of age to claim land, and he was only twenty. As a matter of expediency, Bidwell continued to teach school, but made up his mind to move elsewhere as soon as practicable. That fall, not long after his experience with the squatter, he happened to hear Louis Robidoux, a Santa Fe trapper who had just returned from the far West with some wonderful tales of a place called California, a land of perpetual spring. He questioned Robidoux closely on California, particularly asking if it had any "fever and ague", the scourge of the Missourians. He was told that there had been only one case of it in the whole history of the department and its victim aroused so much curiosity that people came from eighteen miles around to watch him shake. That "clinched the deal" for Bidwell who soon set about organizing a "great west-ward Emigration Society" to start for California the following spring.

The organization of this company was just too easy. Within a short time five hundred people had signed up to join it, and Sapling Grove, a short distance from Westport, in what is now Kansas, was named the place of rendezvous. Then the Weston merchants, unable to go themselves and

hardly appreciating the prospective loss of patronage, started a counter movement. Aided by newspapers of their own adjacent counties, they diligently dug up everything they could find against California, real or imaginary. The five hundred signers melted away. When spring came, John Bidwell was the only man in Weston ready to start for Sapling Grove.

At the last moment, however, Bidwell, who had a wagon but no oxen to pull it, was joined by a young Illinoisan named George Henshaw. Henshaw owned a fine saddle horse, which Bidwell talked him into trading for a yoke of oxen and a "sorry looking one-eyed mule. With that, they were off to Sapling Grove, where, after a few days, they organized a company of sixty--nine men, women and children, and elected John Bartleson, of Jackson County, their captain.

Not a soul in their outfit had any clear idea of how to get to California. Bidwell said they knew that it lay west of them and that was the total extent of their knowledge. But, fortunately, just before starting, they were joined by an Idaho-bound party of Roman Catholic missionaries, under Pierre Jean DeSmet, S. J., and guided by the celebrated mountain man, Thomas Fitzpatrick. This gave them the added security of greater numbers plus the experiences of the Celtic Moses who guided them halfway to their promised land.

On Bear River, not far from the present Alexander, Idaho, the party divided. More than half of those who had gathered at Sapling Grove, not caring to risk the unknown deserts of Utah and Nevada, went on by way of Fort Hall, to Oregon, traveling much of the distance in company with the missionaries. As a result, according to Bancroft, the Bidwell-Bartleson Company had only 34 members when it swung down Bear River toward the Great Salt Lake- 32 men, 1 woman, and a baby in arms. How they ever got to California is one of the mysteries of the overland migration. From just a little north of where the Bear flows into Salt Lake, they cut across the deserts toward Nevada. They were plainly lost, with no chance of hiring a guide at Fort Hall, yet they kept going. At one or two miles an hour, they

traversed vast waterless stretches that even today are disquieting to motorists on well-traveled highways. Sheer doggedness brought them somehow to the headwaters of Mary's River, now called the Humboldt, which they followed to its sink in the vicinity of the present Lovelock. From there, they veered southwest to the uplands of the West Walker River country, where they voted on whether they should push on through the Sierra Nevada or try to retrace their steps to the Oregon Trail. They voted to go ahead by a majority of one vote.

Again they were lost, worse than ever. They had long since abandoned their wagons on the desert and loaded their belongings onto the backs of their animals. They had eaten the last of their oxen and had started in on their horses and mules. Now and then they lost one of their faithful animals on some precipitous slope when it could least be spared. Worse, freezing nights and a blanket of snow on surrounding peaks made their experience night-marish. Time and again, they got into blind canyons and had to double back on their trail. Still, they pushed upward till, at last, they camped 8500 feet above sea level. At length, they came upon a tiny stream running westward.

They knew they had reached the summit, but had no idea they were on the headwaters of the Stanislaus River and in California.

Before they escaped their mountainous prison, however, they were in the direst straits. Their descent was even more perilous than their ascent; the mountains were rougher and steeper on the west side of the range. No game could be seen anywhere, and starvation was staring them in the face. A couple of their party had ridden ahead, hoping to obtain relief at the ranch of a Dr. John Marsh at the foot of Mt. Diablo, and had not been heard from since. On the morning before they got out of the mountains, Bidwell wrote in his diary that he had breakfasted on "the lights of a coyote."

Finally, a short way below the present Knight's Ferry, they came out upon the broad San Joaquin Valley. As they looked over its scattered groves and tree-lined water-courses, they thought it was the most beautiful thing they had ever seen. Game was plentiful, and they stopped in the shade of the oaks to refresh themselves. A few days later, on November 4, they reached Marsh's Ranch. Here, the party broke up, some of its members going up to Sutter's Fort at New Helvetia, some to San Jose, and several on a general tour of the country. Bidwell

was one of those going to Sutter's Fort. He immediately found employment there, for Sutter, needing a man of his caliber, sent him to Bodega as caretaker of the Fort Ross property, recently purchased from the Russians. Later, he was placed in charge of other Sutter holdings, particularly Hock Farm on Feather River. He surveyed Sutter lands, handled Sutter correspondence, kept Sutter books, wrote a large part of the New Helvetia Diary, and, in time, knew more about Sutter affairs than Sutter himself.

By 1844, Bidwell was speaking Spanish like a native and, following the custom of other foreigners in the country, was naturalized a Mexican citizen in order to become a land baron the same as his employer. From Governor Manuel Micheltorena he received the four-league Rancho Ulpinos in Solano County in 1844 and the two-league Rancho Colus in Colusa County in 1845—some 26,000 acres. So it was no accident that he stood by the governor when the native Californians revolted against him. It is also said that he was none too enthusiastic at first over plans of American settlers to seize the country in 1846, though he was later identified as secretary of the Bear Flag Party, to say nothing of having charge of the Bear Flag prisoners sent to Sutter's Fort.

When war broke out between the United States and Mexico, Bidwell went south to San Luis Rey as a captain in Fremont's California Battalion, and later served as major under Stockton. On cessation of hostilities, however, he promptly returned to his duties at Sutter's Fort, which he continued till the gold discovery of 1848, when he, the same as everybody else, was over-whelmed with the desire to scratch for yellow metal in the beds of icy mountain streams. As a result, he was one of the first miners on Feather River, where Bidwell's Bar is named after him because he discovered gold there July 4, 1848.

Though Bidwell was easily a land baron with his ranchos Colus and Ulpinos, it was not till the late forties that he finally decided to settle down as a rancher on his own. Then he bought the five-league (22,190 acres) Rancho Chico, granted to William Dickey and Edward Augustus Farwell in 1844. With that, Colus and Ulpinos were things of the past but, under his ownership, Chico brought international fame to Butte County. Here he established his home, amassed much wealth, and became the state's greatest

agriculturist.

In 1849, when the people of California got ready to organize a state government for themselves, Bidwell was chosen to represent his district in the Constitutional Convention at Monterey, but for some reason did not serve. Later, however, from December, 1849, to May, 1850, he represented the Sacramento District in the Senate of the First California Legislature. He was one of the Commissioners sent by Governor Burnett to Washington in 1850 with California's petition for statehood. Thereafter, he retained a lively, if not always successful, interest in politics.

In 1860, as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina, he was the one of the whole Pacific Coast Delegation to stand for the Union. Back home the following year, he sought nomination for governor on the Union Democratic ticket, but perhaps through his unwillingness to make a "deal" with the politicians, did not get it. By 1863, Bidwell, putting the welfare of his country above partisan politics, had drifted from the Democratic fold and was vice president of the Union Party. About this time, Governor Leland Stanford commissioned him Brigadier General of the Fifth Brigade California Militia. Thenceforward, to the end of his life, practically everybody who knew him referred to him as General Bidwell.

In 1864, Bidwell again went East to a national political convention, this time to Baltimore as a delegate to the Union Party which worked hard for the reelection of Lincoln. He next served two years in Congress, from 1865 to 1867, but for some reason declined a second term. 1875 found him in a new role, running for governor on the non-partisan Anti-Monopoly ticket and in 1890 he changed his party affiliation for the fourth and last time when he came out as the Prohibition Party's candidate for the same office. Two years later, he was the first Prohibitionist candidate for President of the United States.

With the passing years, Bidwell's energies overflowed into the field of higher education and a host of other things. He was appointed a regent of the University of California in 1880, and from 1889 to 1896 served as Trustee of the Chico State Normal School, now Chico State College. His understanding of the economic problems of the day was amazing. Almost two years before the Golden Spike was driven at Promontory, Utah, and three years before Frank Norris was born, he foresaw the railroad octopus that for decades held California in the ruthless grasp of its financial tentacles. Moreover, he understood and

vigorously opposed all other sorts of trusts and monopolies that sought to loot state and national resources. In recognizing the need for transportation safety and regulation, he was far ahead of his time. He had formulated ideas on the subject long before Congress ever dreamed of an Interstate Commerce Commission. As candidate for president in 1892, he included in his platform a reciprocity plank that present-day tariff experts might do well to study. Though he was nationally regarded as a man of great wealth, his views on income tax are still anathema to the mildest conservative. Also liberal were his views on female suffrage; he did not feel that any country where only half of the population could vote was a true democracy. Indeed, he was so in favor of equal rights for women that today he would unquestionably champion the cause of equal pay for equal work.

Yet, with all these activities, he still found time to be a scientific agriculturist. No matter what else he did, his love for the soil was the warp and woof of his life fabric. His experiments in diversified farming attracted to Rancho Chico distinguished visitors from all over the world. He introduced any number of new plants, trees and shrubs into California and strove to improve the varieties of those already here. A partial list of the things grown and raised on Rancho Chico includes fruits, grapes, grains, alfalfa, cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, chickens, turkeys, and bees. He had his own flour mill to convert his grain into flour, and a cannery and packing house to handle his fruits. To these he added a winery and a vinegar works and butcher shop. He employed an average of a hundred and fifty men the year around, and during harvest season from 700 to 800. His Rancho Chico was indeed the wonder of the state.

But that was not all. He was civic-minded in the most admirable sense of the term. In between farming activities, he selected a beautiful townsite, and laid out the town of Chico, which seemed to have been growing for sometime previously by itself. He donated the plaza and the sites for the city hall, five churches of different denominations, the State Normal School, and the United States Forestry Station.

He provided for the town's growth by making sure its streets were wide and beautiful, lining them with trees from his own nurseries. Thus he won for himself the title of "father of Chico." Then, over and above his beneficences to the town, he spent large sums of money on building and

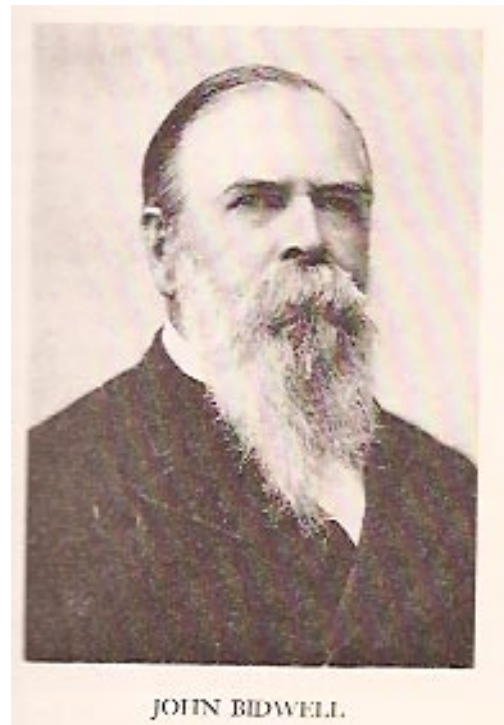
improving public roads, something that benefited everybody in the county and took a large load off the small taxpayer. Peculiarly, however, Bidwell was a little slow in entering fraternal activities, particularly Masonry. But he had good reason for it. He was not yet of legal age when he left Missouri in 1841, so he could join no Lodge there. Nor could he present a petition for degrees in California for a full eight years after his arrival here because the first Lodge in this state did not open its doors till 1849, and it was many miles from his home. The several that came between it and the organization of Grand Lodge the following spring were also far removed and of uncertain existence. But, finally he presented his petition to San Jose Lodge No. 10, January 4, 1851, and on February 13 was initiated an Entered Apprentice. He was passed and raised sometime later under what, to quote him, must have been hazy conditions. In a letter dated August 11, 1897, he wrote: "You ask me to send the name of the Lodge where I took the degrees. In the winter of 1850-51 a friend persuaded me to take the first degree in San Jose-the name I do not remember. A few years later, at Hamilton, which was then county seat of Butte County, the two following degrees. There was no lodge there-no lodge room-but the man who acted as master had authority, as I understood, to confer such degrees. Think his name was Morse or Moss. It might have been Butte Lodge. The exact years I do not recall."

The Master Bidwell referred to was Brother Nelson D. Morse, Past Grand Master of Illinois, and the Lodge was Pacific Lodge, a "traveling lodge" from Long's Bar on Feather River, a short distance north of the present Oroville. Pacific Lodge, under jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, was one of those ephemeral gold rush organizations that had no legal standing in California. It was unwittingly established several months after organization of the Grand Lodge of California, and soon passed out of existence. Bidwell affiliated with Butte Lodge No. 36, at Bidwell's Bar in 1855 and with Chico Lodge No. 111, in 1857. He filled several offices in Chico Lodge, including those of Master, Secretary and Treasurer. He was twice Master, in 1862 and 1864, and Treasurer for many years.

In 1888, after thirty-seven years in the Craft, Bidwell ceased all Masonic activities, though he at the time owned the building in which Chico Lodge met. There is some question around Chico as to why he did this, with several old-timers offering widely different explanations. The most plausible explanation seems to be that of Brother

John Rodney Gleason, who was bookkeeper, cashier, and confidential secretary at Rancho Chico from 1890 to 1898, and who was in a position to discuss the matter with the two people most concerned. According to him, Mrs. Bidwell, whom Bidwell married in 1868, was unalterably opposed to secret societies. She resented her husband's unwillingness to tell her what happened in Lodge meetings and, harping on it for twenty years, finally made things so uncomfortable for him that he gave up the Lodge in order to have peace and harmony in his own household.

Bidwell died April 4, 1900. Today, as people study his life, they see a man who was eminently just and honest in dealing with his fellow creatures, particularly with the Indians of Rancho Chico. He looked after them like a father for years, even to the point of providing them with church facilities in form of a small chapel, located on the ranch not far from his house. His youthful courage in coming to California in the first place, his services to his country, his many public benefactions, and his untiring efforts to make his home state a better place in which to live are known wherever Western American history is studied. He has well earned the title of Prince of pioneers.



JOHN BIDWELL.

AMITY LODGE NO. 442 F. & A. M.

MEMBERS AND HONORED LADIES UPDATED INFORMATION

In order to update the Lodge's information on its members and honored ladies, this questionnaire is being sent to you. The information that you furnish will only be used by the Lodge Secretary, and entered into our files. The reason for this is that some of the information in our files appears to be incorrect or obsolete, and it is urgent that we have the correct information on file.

Arnold Korey, Secretary

Full Name

Last	First	Middle
------	-------	--------

Home address:

Street	City	State Zip Code
--------	------	----------------

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Wife's Name:

Last	First	Middle
------	-------	--------

Next of Kin:

Last	First	Middle
------	-------	--------

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

When the time comes, I would like _____ or would not like _____ a Masonic Funeral.

Please indicate why you have not been attending Lodge for Stated Meetings and/or Degrees. (Check all that apply)

I have been ill Do not drive at night Don't have the time

Don't know anyone in Lodge anymore Find the meetings dull

It has been too long since I have attended and can't remember the signs.

Meetings are too long I have been attending Lodge meetings.

Other reasons: _____

Please complete this form and fold and mail to:

Amity Lodge #442

Attention: Arnold Korey

1895 Camino Del Rio South

San Diego, CA 92108