

DEDICATION



This Book is Dedicated to
James and Helen Whitney Palache



*The Palaches on the occasion of their Golden Anniversary
August 1905*

ST. CLEMENT'S

A UNIQUE PLACE OF WORSHIP

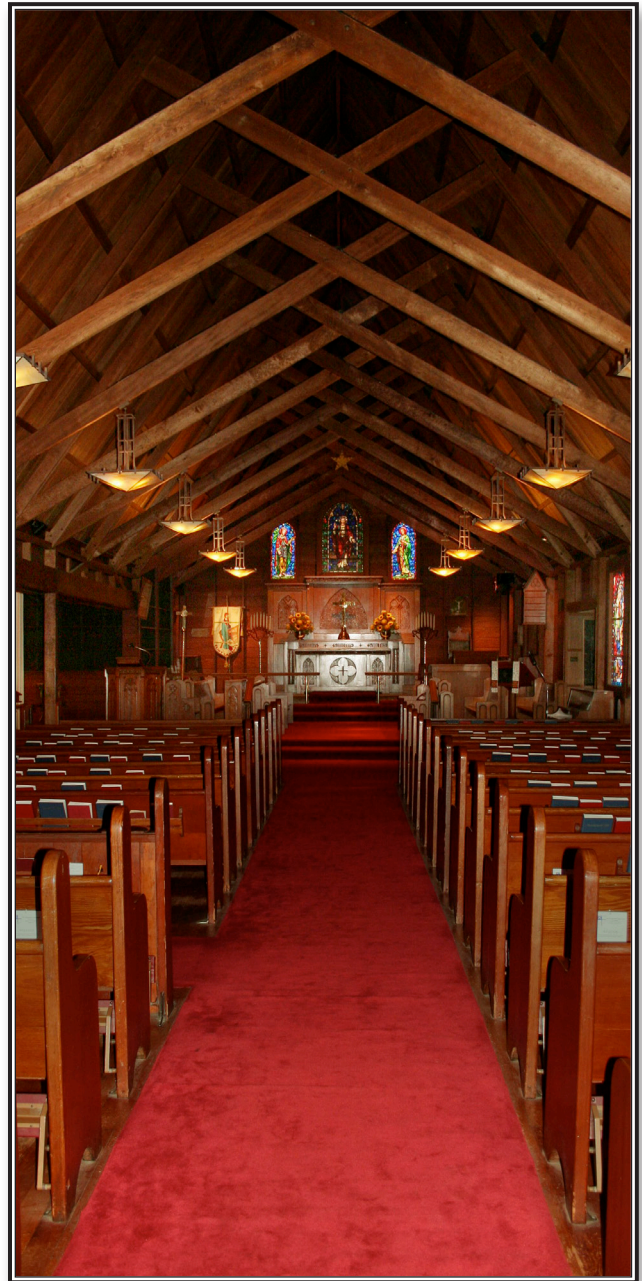


St. Clement's is a special place of worship. The interior is peaceful and elegant. The beautiful stained glass windows admit soft lights that blend with the unadorned woods, red carpet and brass appointments. In this simple and sacred space, which slowly evolved through the years, one feels the Holy Spirit.

A church is dedicated to God, but it is the congregation, the community of the faithful, that gives it its character and colors its soul. St. Clement's, from its beginning, has been blessed with more than its share of outstanding theologians, university, business and professional leaders as well as devoted lay people.

Despite its relatively small congregation, the church has always supported community and welfare outreach, several working guilds, musical organizations, theological study groups and social groups. Members and clergy participate in Deanery, Diocesan and Seminary affairs as well.

This history tells of the joyful beginnings of St. Clement's as a chapel of St. Mark's and of its growth into maturity as an independent parish. It is also the story of individuals, both clergy and lay, who brought their talents and energies to build and sustain a House of God. With His blessing St. Clement's continues to thrive today.



The Sanctuary of St. Clement's Church, 2009

Photograph by Susan Davis

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CALIFORNIA

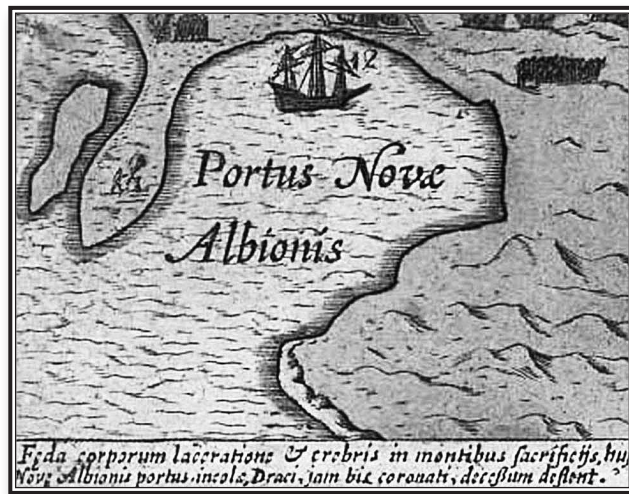


he establishment of St. Clement's Episcopal Church in 1908 seems, in the total scheme of things, a recent event. However, it had a valuable role in the history of the Anglican denomination's development in America's Far West. Therefore, it is appropriate to include here some mention of the larger events that gave rise to it.

Christianity itself first gained a foothold in this part of the world with the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. Later, in settling the area that is now California, they built a series of missions up the Pacific Coast to spread the Roman Catholic faith along with loyalty to Spain.

Anglicans had a brief moment of involvement in 1579 when explorer Sir Francis Drake's legendary ship, the *Golden Hind*, dropped anchor in a bay some forty miles north of San Francisco. During the month-long stay the ship's chaplain, Francis Fletcher, held services using the English Prayer Book. Reputedly these were the first Anglican services held on the shores of North America.

In time Drake sailed away, and with him all semblance of formal Anglican institutions. Fortunately for the denomination, colonists continued to arrive and increase on the East Coast. By 1784, not long after the Declaration of Independence, American Anglicans received their first Bishop, Samuel Seabury, and the Anglican Church had become organized and firmly entrenched on the Eastern seaboard. In 1789 the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church was



Nova Albionis / New Britain, the cove north of San Francisco where Drake anchored in 1579



Sir Francis Drake and his ship, The Golden Hind



held, which led to the first Constitution and Canons of the Church, as well as to the first American Book of Common Prayer.

Settlers from the East continued to move to this sparsely populated territory of Mexico throughout the 19th century. Bit by bit they shouldered aside the Mexicans and native residents. Not until America won the war against Mexico in 1849 was California finally recognized as a part of the United States, and in 1850 it became the thirty-first state.

Even as the pioneers pushed westward, the observance of faith was left largely to individuals and families. That changed abruptly when the discovery of gold in 1848 triggered a massive influx of people into California. San Francisco, a small village of 300, became the key entry port for arriving prospectors from around the world and rapidly grew to include 30,000 people.

Chaotic and free spirited as it was, the city also included many deeply devoted Anglicans. Some of them banded together and in 1849 formed their first parish. Services were held in the newly created Holy Trinity Church, presided over by the Reverend Flavel S. Mines of the Diocese of New York and the Reverend Augustus Finch, who had just returned from missionary work in the Sandwich Islands. Within a year yet another congregation formed Grace Church, the forerunner of today's Grace Cathedral. The Reverend J. L. Ver Mehr took charge.

The two churches and their spiritual leaders were close and supportive of one another. Together they wanted to formalize their efforts through the appointment of a bishop from the traditional established churches "from East or from the West." Unfortunately, neither Mines nor Ver Mehr held out much hope for a bishop to be sent, so they held an organizational convention. They adopted a canon prescribing the diocesan institutions of a seminary, a college, a place for disabled clergy, and a retreat for elderly women of the church. They named

their creation "The Church of California."

At first the General Convention of the Episcopal Church did not recognize or admit the San Francisco entity to its ranks. Nevertheless, the San Francisco congregations continued to grow so quickly that the national church soon relented and recognized their needs. In 1853 it appointed Dr. William Ingraham Kip, son of a wealthy and respected New York City family, to Missionary Bishop of California, formalizing the union and making it into an Episcopate. The first diocese in California was the "Diocese of California," which technically covered the whole territory and was based in San Francisco. Today six dioceses cover the state.

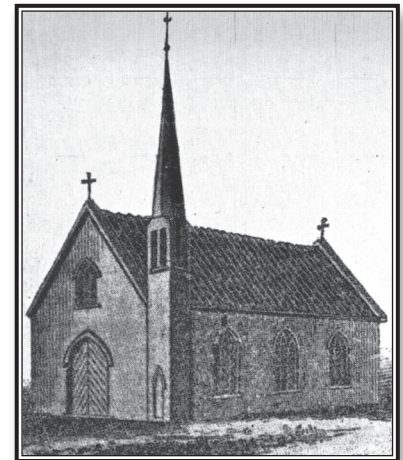


Wm. Ingraham Kip

First Bishop of California

*The first Grace Church,
San Francisco,
erected in 1849*

*Graphics courtesy of
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco*



THE EAST BAY



he history that led to the establishment of St. Clement's Church is a classic story of urban development in California. Before 1900 the East Bay of San Francisco was essentially farm and ranch country. Only a handful of small communities had sprung up along the bay to provide goods and services to the city of San Francisco itself.

Among them was the unincorporated working class community of Ocean View. This small settlement was the start of what is today the city of Berkeley. To the south of Ocean View was the more established and populous city of Oakland. Here, in 1855, two New England ministers started a non-denominational Christian institution of higher learning named the College of California. Soon they bought a large farm in the rolling foothills five miles northwest of downtown Oakland, where they intended to create a spacious campus for their college. To finance the move they planned to sell building lots adjacent to the campus for a new community, hoping to appeal to people eager to live in the stimulating atmosphere of a college town. To buttress that image the college trustees formally named this area Berkeley, after George Berkeley, the 18th century man of letters, philosopher and Anglican Bishop of Cloyne, Ireland.

Although a few people bought property in the new area, the expected profits did not materialize. In 1868 the trustees transferred their properties to the State of California and the school merged with the state-run Agriculture, Mining and Mechanical Arts College to

form the University of California. The school moved from Oakland to the present site in September 1873, and the former farm became the permanent home of the University of California, Berkeley, today one of the leading public universities in the world.

These events, and the land on which they took place, were critical in the establishment of St. Clement's. Two prominent men, Judge John Garber and James Palache, had become large land owners of acreage adjacent to the university grounds. Subdivision of the Palache property, in what was known as Claremont Court, began in 1905. A year later Whitney Palache and John Garber donated land for a wide boulevard through their properties, for the purpose of linking the center of Oakland and the University of California.

By the summer of 1907 the gates at Russell Street and Claremont Boulevard had been built. Designed by John Galen Howard, principal architect for the University of California, the gates are noteworthy. They are built of "hard-edged red brick with moldings of ivory colored terra cotta." Graceful and dignified they form a grand entrance leading toward the campus.

The formal presence of Episcopalianism in the East Bay began in 1877 when a group of University of California faculty and students established St. Mark's Church. Today the church stands in central Berkeley on Bancroft Way. Meanwhile, the newly established areas near Russell and Claremont, on and near the Garber and Palache spreads, continued to attract residents. Starting in 1906, the year of the great earthquake and fire in San Francisco, the trickle became a torrent as burned out residents of the city sought new and presumably safer places to live.

Understandably, the population of Berkeley grew by leaps and bounds—from 10,000 residents to 42,000 between 1900 and 1910. So did St. Mark's, which had grown to include 550 congregants. But as the community spread, it became increasingly time consuming for many Episcopalians to get to church.

For those in outlying areas the horse and buggy journey often took an hour or more.

The Reverend Edward Lambe Parsons, Rector of St. Mark's, came to the conclusion that there was a need to establish missions, so that "every considerable area in Berkeley should have a church, convenient for people who live in that area." The idea found strong

support from both parishioners and the diocese. Concept turned to action and All Souls Episcopal Church, now located at 2220 Cedar, opened its doors in 1905. Then, with unstinting moral and material backing from the Palache family, St. Clement's was built and opened for services in 1909.



A view of the Palache property, looking north from Oak Knoll, c. 1905

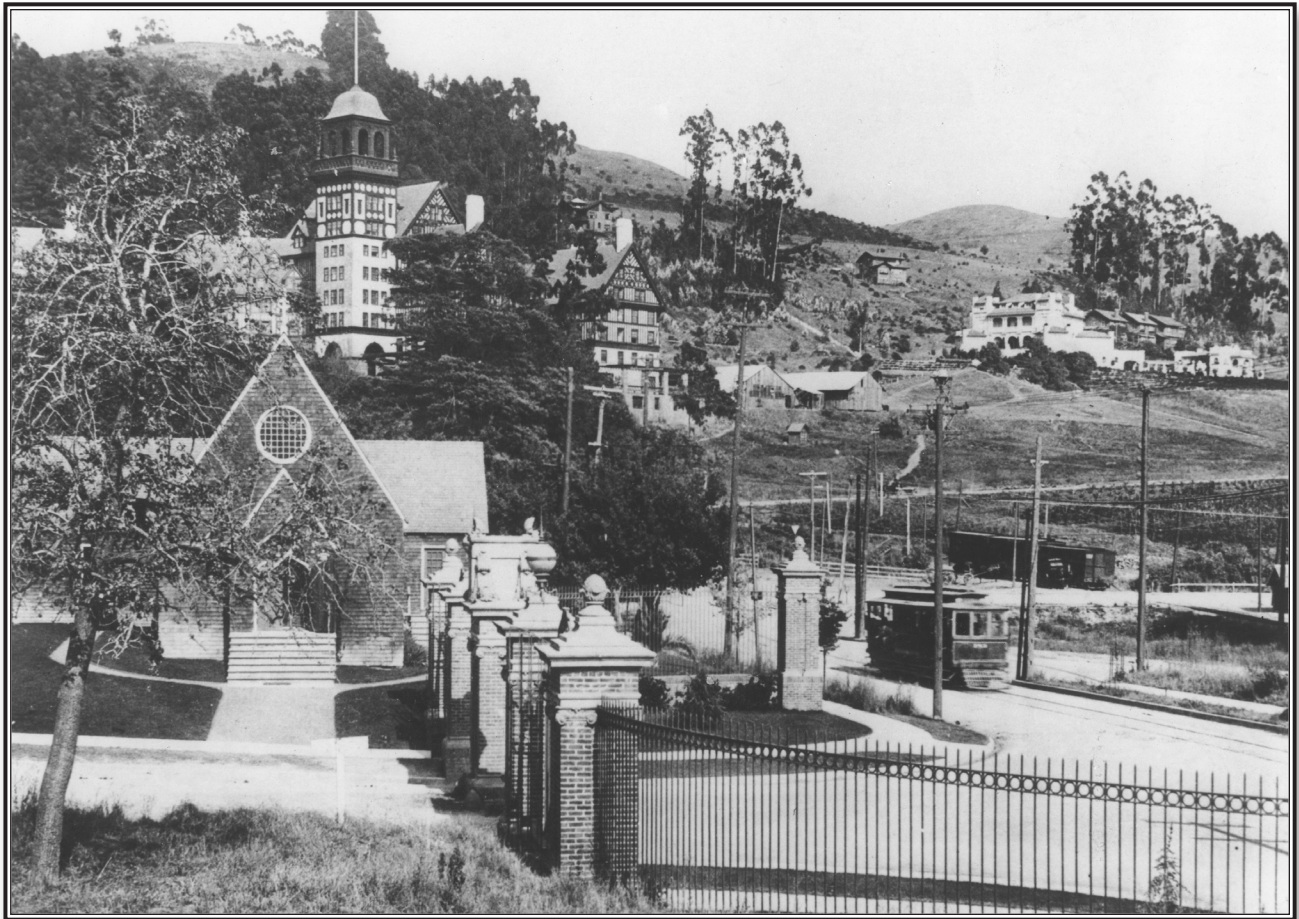


A few pages from the
Palache Family Album



St. Clement's Parish

The Early Years



*St. Clement's Church, c.1915
Note the Claremont Hotel, the Russell Street trolley, and the John Galen Howard Gates*

A GIFT OF LAND

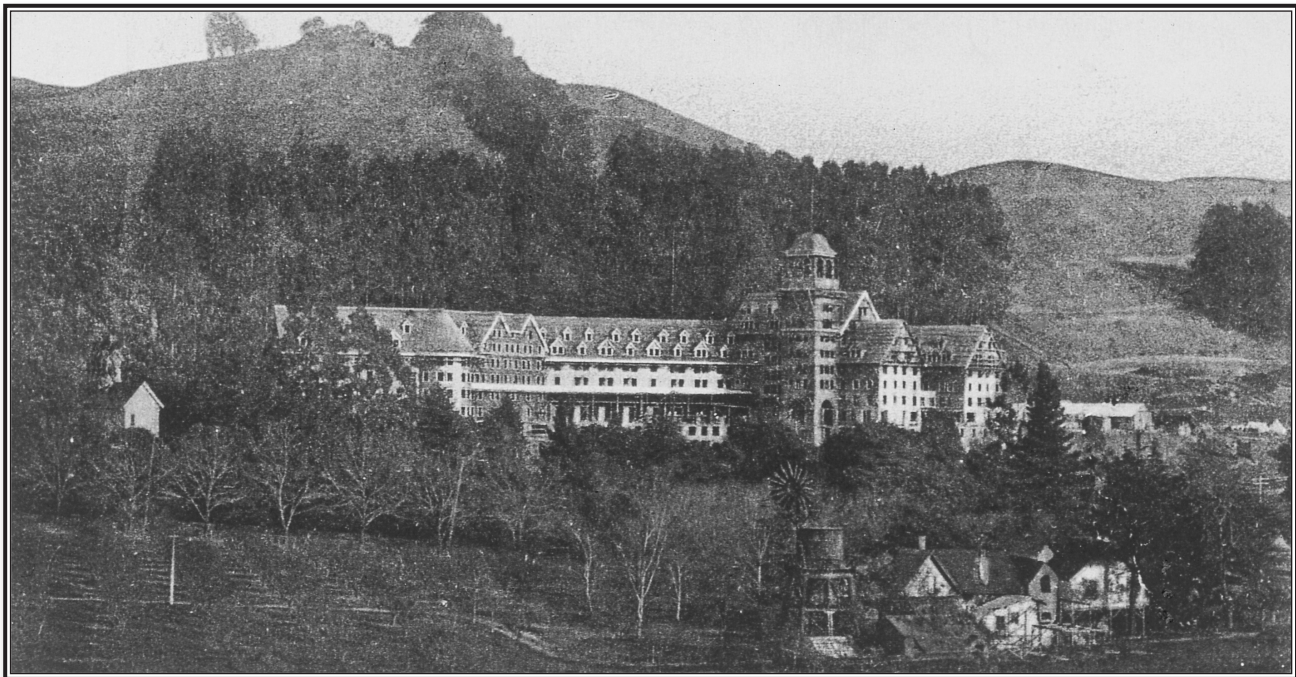


he land on which St. Clement's Church and its Parish Hall now stand was donated by Helen Whitney Palache in memory of her husband, James. California has more than its share of stories about legendary men and women who struggled to get here, built fortunes and contributed to the common good at the same time. The Palaches fit that mold.

James Palache was born in New York in 1834 into a cultured and well-educated family. A predictable,

settled life seemed assured. At age 13, however, the adventurous and free-spirited James left St. John's College to seek adventure at sea. After a rough voyage around the Horn he landed in San Francisco in 1849, in the midst of the Gold Rush. Caught up by the frenzy he started work as a surveyor's helper in the gold country, the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Apparently he didn't strike gold as such, but he did manage to meet a charming young lady named Helen Whitney, who had arrived with her family by wagon train from Wisconsin via the Overland Route.

Helen and James were married in 1855 and moved to San Francisco in 1862, where James eventually became a partner in the successful firm of Kittle & Co., makers of linseed oil. In 1879 they purchased a large tract of land adjoining the Judge Garber estate and, with their five children, moved to Berkeley. The Palaches were devout Episcopalians, and every member



The Claremont Hotel, with the Palache home in the lower right, 1907

soon became active at St. Mark's Church. For many years James Palache served as Senior Warden.

James died on January 27, 1906, at the age of 72, in Pacific Grove, California, while on a short vacation with his daughter, Eliza. In a letter written in September 1906 by Eliza to her brother, Charles, a student at Harvard University, she said, "Your heart will have told you that Mother would feel the need of providing a memorial to Father in some form. She has for years fostered the hope of some day seeing a chapel on portions of 'Fairview' (*their Berkeley estate*). Since Father's passing she has talked much with Mary and me about it and finally decided the matter must be arranged. When mother expressed her desire to Whitney (*another son*) he received it with enthusiasm and was inspired to place his finger on the spot that appealed to all of us as the appropriate site—the corner of Claremont and Russell."

Two days later she wrote again to tell her brother that the matter had been laid before their pastor. "His enthusiasm and sacred joy (as it seems right to call it) was beautiful to see. To our surprise we found that one of the matters pressing heavily on him was provision in Claremont for a chapel, and also a suitable memorial to Father was desired by the Church members. The chapel as well as ground will, he says, be a spontaneous expression of love and veneration for Father's work and life."

The Deed of Gift donating the choicest piece of land in Claremont Court to St. Mark's Parish, Berkeley, was dated May 11, 1907. However, almost a year and a half passed before a group of St. Mark's parishioners met to discuss the founding of a mission. Finally, on October 24, 1908, at the home of Whitney Palache, at 2801 Claremont Boulevard (*today 3015 Garber Road*) Berkeley, St. Clement's was formally organized.

To celebrate the event the first St. Clement's mission service was held the following afternoon, October 25, at the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. George

Herbert Kellogg, at 98 El Camino Real. Some 15-20 families from the area were present. The Rev. E. L. Parsons, Rector of St. Mark's, officiated.

At that service Fr. Parsons was assisted by the Rev. Donald Mayo Brookman, the Parish's Director of Religious Education. Some 20 years later Fr. Brookman would recall: "I well remember, in the autumn of 1908, when I first went to help (the now) Bishop Parsons... that among the first things he mentioned to me was the newly planned Chapel for the Clairmont (*sic*) district of the parish. We took a walk there, one afternoon, and together we became enthusiastic over the site and its prospects. To be sure in that early day the houses in the neighborhood were few; the (*Claremont*) hotel was standing, but my recollection is that it was not in use. On the other hand the "Key Route" had established itself nearby and houses were being erected steadily...."

The "Key Route" was part of a privately-owned inter-urban train and ferry system linking the East Bay with San Francisco. It thrived from 1903 until 1958. The trains to the Claremont Hotel ran between the hotel's tennis courts, now part of the Berkeley Tennis Club.



Stained glass window at the entry to the house at 98 El Camino Real, Berkeley, where the first mission service was held
Photograph by Victor Gavenda



ST. CLEMENT'S CHAPEL



On January 17, 1909, at the Diocesan Convention, St. Clement's was received into the Diocese of California as a Mission. It was to be known officially as St. Clement's Chapel in St. Mark's Parish, Berkeley. By definition a parish is a financially self-sustaining community of congregants. Parish clergy are paid by the parish itself. Missions, on the other hand, are an outreach by an established church entity, most often the Diocese. In St. Clement's case, the sponsor was the Parish of St. Mark's. Mission clergy, usually vicars, are paid by the sponsoring organization.

St. Clement, a distinguished scholar, was chosen as the patron saint of the new chapel in order to connect it with the parish church of St. Mark's, as well as with the university town of Berkeley. St. Mark, by tradition, was the evangelist who brought Christianity to Egypt. St. Clement was head of The Catechetical School of Alexandria, and one of the most distinguished Christian fathers of the second and third centuries.

In 1908 the so-called "Municipal Policy of Berkeley" had been set in motion. Under this policy the Episcopal churches in Berkeley, instead of working separately, were organized under the aegis of St. Mark's Parish. These included St. Mark's, All Souls, St. Clement's, and the Northbrae Sunday School. Together they formed a single administrative group. The Church of the Good Shepherd was a part of this group as well, although nominally a diocesan mission. St. Matthew's, also under the charge of the rector of



*Stained glass window of
St. Clement of Alexandria, our patron saint
The scholar at his desk
Photograph by Susan Davis*