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1905

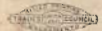
SACRAMENTO, CAL.  
SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> 1905

SOUVENIR  
AND OFFICIAL  
PROGRAM



N. S. G. W.

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SACRAMENTO, CAL.

ADMISSION DAY CELEBRATION



September 4th-9th 1905 :: Sacramento, Cal.



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# The Native Sons of the Golden West

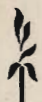
## A History of Its Organization

**T**HE Order of the Native Sons of the Golden West, which to-day sends its members from all parts of California to celebrate in a fitting manner the 55th anniversary of the admission of their native State into the Union of States, owes its origin and progress to one of the strongest feelings implanted in the human breast—pride of Nativity, love for the place of birth. It is essentially and practically a California order, being confined to those born within the State. Its origin was patriotic, its purposes benevolent, its object to perpetuate the men and memories of “the days of '49,” and to unite all native Californians in one harmonious body. It owes no allegiance save where the stars and stripes shall ever wave. The burden of the pioneer founders has been taken up; and upon the foundation laid by them the Native Sons have erected a superstructure which to-day, in its ramifications, includes every city and hamlet of importance in the State of California. From a beginning of twenty-one members thirty years ago the 11th of last July, it now numbers over seventeen thousand of the bone and sinew of the land, honored in their native State and in the Order. Of those early architects of the Order it can be truly said, “They builded better than they knew.”

## CHAPTER I.

### Objects of the Order

**T**HE object and aim of the Order of Native Sons of the Golden West is best told from the prefatory to its Constitution and By-laws: “The Society of the Native Sons of the Golden West was organized for the mutual benefit, mutual improvement and social intercourse of its members; to perpetuate in the minds of all native Californians the memories of one of the most wonderful epochs in the world’s history, the days of 49’; to unite them in one harmonious body throughout the State by the ties of a friendship mutually beneficial to all, and unalloyed by the bitterness of religious or political differences, the discussion of which is most stringently forbidden in its meetings; to elevate and cultivate the mental faculties; to rejoice with one another in prosperity, and to extend the ‘Good Samaritan’ hand in adversity. The members must bear a good reputation for sobriety and industry; they must follow some respectable calling by which to make a living; and, as a vital principle of the association, it encourages temperance among its members, and recommends total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.”



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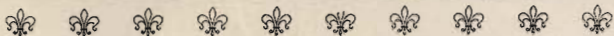
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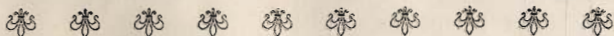
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The Grand Parlor was organized for the purpose of uniform administration of the privileges, honors and benefits of the order; to perpetuate in the minds of all native Californians the memories of "the days of '49," and to unite all worthy Native Sons of California in one harmonious body; improve the condition of its members by encouragement in business and in aiding them to obtain employment, and to extend to its members assistance in time of sickness and need. It has power over all Subordinate Parlors and to grant charters for the same, which it may revoke or suspend for proper cause; of hearing and determining all appeals; to make governing laws for the Subordinate Parlors, and for furnishing all supplies necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the Order.

The Constitution of the Order confines its membership to white males born in the State of California, and at least eighteen years of age; but Subordinate Parlors may fix the limit of age over eighteen years. Candidates must be of sound health, of good moral character and industrious habits, having some respectable means of support, and believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. Application must be made in writing, signed by the applicant, stating time and place of birth, occupation and residence; and the applicant must be recommended by at least two members of the Order in good standing. The application is referred to a committee of three (3); and if their report and the surgeon's certificate is favorable, the candidate is balloted for. The initiatory ceremonies are necessarily secret; but they are founded on and bear an allegorical reference to the history of California, and are calculated to impress the members with an idea of the importance to be attributed to the historical events that have made California what she is to-day. The principles of Friendship, Loyalty and Charity are enlarged upon, with the endeavor to instil into the members' minds the duty they owe to one another and to all worthy mankind. The amount of initiation fees and monthly dues of members varies in the different Parlors. The Constitution of Subordinate Parlors fixes the minimum of initiation fee at \$5. In many of the Parlors it is as high as \$10 and \$20. The monthly dues and amount of sick benefits are optional with each Parlor. The dues are generally \$1 per month, and the sick benefits from \$7 to \$10 per week. Every member in good standing, in case of sickness or bodily injury, not arising from any immoral or unlawful act, is entitled to receive from the

funds of the Parlor of which he is a member such weekly benefits as their by-laws provide, but in no case less than \$5 per week. In case of the death of a member, there is allowed such sum as the by-laws may provide for funeral expenses from \$75 to \$250. The growth and prosperity of the Order has been remarkable. It now numbers upward of 17,000 members, distributed in 200 Subordinate Parlors. Taking into consideration that it is but the first generation of native Californians, there is every reason to be proud of this success. Inseparably linked with the destinies of the State, it will live to see California attain the full fruition of her power and greatness.

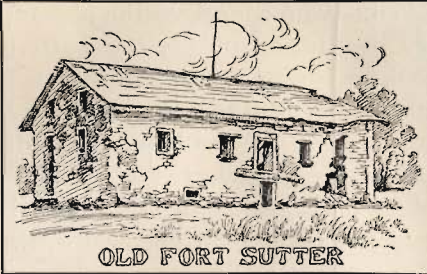
**D**URING the preparations incidental to the celebration of the Fourth of July, 1875, there appeared in the advertising columns of the daily press, on the morning of June 24th, an invitation to the native sons of San Francisco, over fourteen years of age, to meet in the Police Courtroom, Tuesday night, June 29th, and organize for the purpose of taking part in the celebration of the national holiday. This public notice was the means of bringing together the young men who conceived and carried into execution the formation of the Order of the **Native Sons of the Golden West**. In accordance with the call, a small but enthusiastic body met and organized for the purpose of taking part in the parade, and further decided to perpetuate the organization under the name of the "Native Sons of the Golden State." A number of those present, who were under sixteen years of age, were debarred by vote from participating. The meeting adjourned to meet again in the Twelfth District Courtroom on July 1, 1875. The minutes of the first meeting of the society were, at a meeting held October 7, 1875, corrected by the Executive Committee to read as follows: "The first meeting was held in the Police Courtroom, and was called to order by General A. M. Winn, who briefly stated the objects and purposes of the meeting. He then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: 'Resolved, That the Native Sons of the Golden West will form an association to be known by that name and to be perpetuated on the Pacific Coast, and that we now appoint a committee to prepare a Constitution and By-laws for such an institution; and, when ready to report, they shall call a public meeting of the Native Sons over seventeen years of age to consider and act on them.'" For the first two or three meetings there was a confusion of ideas and purposes, due in the main to the youth and inexperience

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of those participating. At this date there were but 295 persons of California birth enrolled upon the Great Register of voters for the City and County of San Francisco. It is not, therefore, a matter of surprise that the participants were few and inexperienced. It has always been a matter of uncertainty as to who were present at the first meeting; but as it was decided to allow none under sixteen years of age to take part in the proceedings, and as the records show that most of those present and in the parade were under sixteen years of age, it will readily be understood that amongst them were a number who subsequently joined the Order and are qualified to speak with a knowledge of this first meeting. The meetings held July 1st, 2d and 4th were important only in showing the spirit and patriotism of the attendants, and the businesslike manner in which the details of the coming celebration were managed. Mr. Henry R. Reed offered the use of a large silk American flag, to be carried by the Native Sons in the procession; and amongst the insignia of a disbanded club in a room in Anthony's Hall was found a stuffed bear, a cub about three feet long, much dilapidated but still a bear. This historic emblem was proudly paraded, decked in red, white and blue ribbons, and flanked by the American and Bear flags.

Paul Harmon procured a piece of canvas, and, being something of an amateur artist, painted upon it the rude picture of a bear, after the copy of the original Bear flag now in the possession of the Society of California Pioneers in San Francisco. This flag is now the property of California Parlor, No. 1, and is a most treasured relic.

#### THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1875.

On Monday, July 5th, 1875 (the 4th falling on Sunday), the Native Sons formed the Ninth Division of the procession, acting as escort to the children's decorated car. Many of them were attired in tattered miners' costumes, and carried on their shoulders the implements of California's early industry, the pick and shovel. These, with the Bear flag and bear, have ever since been regarded as the emblems of the Order.

#### THE NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST.

The next meeting was held on Sunday, July 11, 1875; and from this meeting dates the entry of the Order into the ranks of patriotic, benevolent and fraternal societies. The name of the Native Sons of the Golden

State was changed to the Native Sons of the Golden West, a Constitution and By-laws adopted, and regular officers elected to hold office until the 11th day of January, 1876.

General A. M. Winn, who conceived the idea of the formation of the Society, drafted the Constitution and By-laws, afterwards organizing the Parliamentary School, serving for six months as its presiding officer, and lent invaluable aid to the youthful Society, was elected an honorary member. General Winn and G. W. Anthony, elected September 5, 1875, were the only honorary members elected in the Order. The amendment to the By-laws, adopted August 15th, 1875, providing that donations made for honorary membership shall not be less than one hundred dollars, which entitled the person to life membership without dues, together with Sec. 2 of Article II of the Constitution, providing for honorary membership other than the foregoing, was stricken out at a meeting of the Society held in Red Men's Hall, April 26, 1876, G. W. Anthony resigning the same night. After perfecting the organization of the N. S. G. W. the enthusiasm of its members did not wane; and they went to work in a business manner to perfect their Society. A committee to prepare an initiatory ceremony and obligation, after the plan of other fraternal Societies, was appointed. The report of the committee was adopted, and all the members present took the obligation at the meeting held August 1, 1875. Provisions were also made for the care of the sick and burial of the dead. The first sick committee was appointed on the night of July 25, 1875, as was also the first 9th of September committee, to arrange for properly celebrating the admission of the State of California into the Union. An order of business was approved, and each member advised to procure and study a copy of Cushing's Manual. A badge of the seal of the State, in gold on white satin, surrounded by a rosette of red, white and blue, was accepted. The guileless youths also appointed a special committee of two to suggest or hint to the young ladies the advisability of presenting a flag to the Society.

The youthful Society thus early foreshadowed its future greatness by the adoption of a resolution providing for the organization of branches in towns and cities west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Weekly meetings were held, and new members kept coming in. At the meeting of August 29th, 1875, it was decided to parade on the 9th of September, with Alpine hat, with a star and feather, blue sash for privates.

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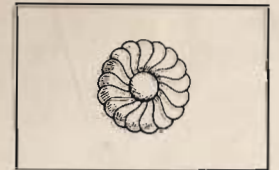
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The Society met at their hall on the morning of September 9th, 1875, and gaily appareled in their new regalias, with flags flying and old Bruin held proudly aloft leading the van, marched through the principal streets of the city, escorted by the French Zouaves to Woodward's Gardens, where an interesting literary and musical program was enjoyed. Dancing concluded the day's festivities. A silk flag was presented to the Society by Miss Nellie Fenn on behalf of the Native Daughters. President John A. Steinbach received the flag in a few well chosen remarks.

General A. M. Winn, in an eloquent speech, thanked the French Zouaves, referring to revolutionary times, and closing said: "Since then nearly a century has passed; and now upon this far-off shore, you, as the proud representatives of the French nation, have kindly escorted the Native Sons of the Golden West in the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of our admission into these United States. We can imagine with pleasure the spirits of Washington and Lafayette hovering over us with delight, witnessing their decendants honoring each other and linking together the emblems of their respective nations."

A Parliamentary School was organized October 8, 1875, and General Winn presided over the class for six months, during which time several of them had become very efficient in presiding and debate. John E. McDougald, whom General Wynn described as a "young man, bright and intelligent, about twenty-two years of age," succeeded to the Presidency, and ably conducted their deliberations up to the time the school dissolved.

As early as September 16, 1875, the Society took action on an application from Nevada by resolving that, "We advise State organizations, and unite by representation, and recommend the formation of Societies of Native Sons in all States and Territories, and that the Trustees be authorized to promote the same by furnishing printed copies of the Constitution, By-laws and Ritual."

The designation of the Society as a Parlor was made in September, 1875. The selection of the name at the time seemed to bear no further significance than to have something original, in contradistinction to lodge, chapter, etc., as used in other fraternal organizations; though it is not unlikely it may have been suggested from the French *parlez*, to speak, being applied in its primary sense to a place of meeting for the purposes of social conversation.

The age of admission was changed, on the 18th of November, from sixteen to eighteen years, and, though subsequently changed for a short time to twenty years, has been a part of the Constitution of Subordinate Parlors for years and is liable to remain so for an indefinite time. At the same meeting a declaration of principles was also adopted.

The success of the Native Sons of the Golden West, in San Francisco led to inquiries from Marysville and Stanislaus, relative to the formation of branches; and it was resolved that after the 7th of January, 1876, the Society publish a pamphlet containing the Constitution, By-laws and Order of Business, together with the names, residences and occupations of all members of the Society.

The first semi-annual election of officers was held on the night of January 6, 1876.

The Secretary reported an active membership of ninety-six, with cash on hand amounting to one hundred and thirty-two dollars and forty cents. The place of meeting was changed to Red Men's Hall, a new and commodious hall just completed, fronting Union Square, on Post street; and here the installation took place on Tuesday evening, January 13, 1876.

Under President Fishbourne's administration the work went on; and the Society grew in numbers and popularity. The many friends of the youthful organization showed their appreciation by numerous presentations. The "Alta California" had always been a warm and consistent supporter of the Society; and at the meeting on April 6, 1876, in the presence of a large number of invited guests, General Winn on behalf of Messrs. Fred'k MacCrelish and Wm. A. Woodward, publishers and proprietors of the "Alta California," presented the Society with its charter. Pictures of General Winn and Daniel McLaren, as President and Secretary of the first Odd Fellows' Association which met in the State, were presented to the Society in the month of February, together with a unique frame carved by F. V. Hart, a member of the Society. The design was a grapevine in full bearing running down the sides of the frame; and on the top of the frame in lighter wood, was the figure of a bear, and at its bottom the figures 1846-1876. This frame now encloses the charter of California Parlor No. 1.

In March, 1876, the Society was duly incorporated as the Native Sons of the Golden West, and legally entered upon its fraternal career. The report of the retiring officers showed a membership of 118, with

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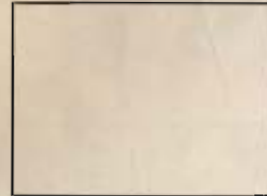
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cash on hand amounting to \$184.79. The receipts of the term amounted to \$584.54, the expenditures being \$531.94.

Under President McDougald's guidance, the Order continued to prosper; and it was due in the main to his wise and conservative action that the Order was continued in the path marked out for it by its founders; for questions arose that at one time threatened to be very serious, growing out of the striking off of the name of General Winn from the roll and giving publicity to the fact that he was no longer a member of the Order. This action of the Society was due to a constitutional amendment, adopted April 26, 1876, prohibiting honorary membership. General Winn continued a warm friend of the Order of which he still considered himself a member. At his death the funeral was under the auspices of the Order. His resting place at Sacramento is marked by a massive granite monument erected by the N. S. G. W.

The Fourth of July of that year was fittingly celebrated, the members then adopting the bear as their emblem and badge. They also paraded at the funeral of James Lick, adopted a design for a seal and took a benefit at the old California Theater, which netted a handsome sum. At the close of the term the Society numbered 122 members, with cash on hand amounting to \$303.61.

President Whepley was succeeded July 5, 1877, by G. H. Fairchild; and it was during his term the order met its first reverse and passed through dark financial days, which, however were not sufficient to quell their ardor. It was on the eighth day of October, 1877, that the Pioneer Land and Loan Bank, of which J. C. Duncan was manager, suspended payment; and by that failure the Society lost the whole of its accumulated funds, amounting to \$1153. This disaster was the more felt in that on the same day Lyle Pitts, one of the members of the Society, was drowned

in the Sacramento River, and the Society was at an expense of \$200 in recovering his body and paying the subsequent funeral expenses, which had to be met by an assessment on its members. Up to December, 1877, the original San Francisco Society constituted the entire Order. On December 17, 1877, application was made by native Californians residing in Oakland; and they were organized as a branch parlor by the mother Society under the name of Oakland Parlor, No. 2. This was followed by the inauguration of Parlor No. 3 at Sacramento on March 22, 1878. The institution of these branch Parlors rendered it necessary for the San Francisco Parlor to adopt some distinctive name; and it selected the name of Charter Parlor, No. 1, by which it was designated until June 1, 1878, when it adopted the name by which it has since been known—California Parlor, No. 1. For some time afterwards each Parlor retained its individuality; and, though working under the same ritual and using the same ceremonies, each practically claimed entire independence. Although no serious difficulty arose from this condition of affairs, it was seen that, as the Order was extended, conditions would arise and circumstances demand a concert of action by which there should be some supreme governing power to make general laws for the regulation of all branches, and to which an appeal could be taken in cases of differences between Parlors or amongst their members. California Parlor, No. 1, as Charter Parlor, claimed this authority, but was without the power to enforce it. It was arranged to hold a conference of delegates, composed of five representatives from each Parlor, to meet at San Francisco, November 29, 1878. The delegates met and formed the first Grand Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West. The Grand Parlor has since convened annually; and the records of its proceedings furnish the further history of the Order.



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