

John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

Seventh Governor of California



**June 24<sup>th</sup> 1827 - March 1<sup>st</sup> 1894**  
**Born Castlesampson Town-land**  
**Taughmaconnell Parish**  
**South County Roscommon**  
**Ireland**

*In his own handwritten notes archived at the Bancroft Library, in Berkeley California, John Downey describes himself as being 5' 6" tall, with a square build, fair complexion, auburn hair which turned white in later years, and hazel eyes. He claims a quick manner of address, concise and to the point, and said he was very forceful. He wanted it known that even though he was a Catholic; he donated the land for the Methodist oriented University of Southern California.*

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## *Introduction*

By any historical measure, the life and times of Governor John Gately Downey are recent history. His story had its beginning in the town-land of Castlesampson, at the southern tip of County Roscommon, in the Irish midlands, on June 24<sup>th</sup> 1827. Just two lifetimes ago. Two of my own great-grandfathers were born in that same area around that very same time.

John Downey's life story is a powerful and compelling tale of a young Irish lad who came to America shortly before the Irish famine, and who during his lifetime achieved enormous success in the world of business and politics. A confluence of events and timing placed in his hands the opportunity to exert a powerful influence over the eventual outcome of the American Civil War, a war that cost some 642,000, lives. Decisions that he made as governor at the outbreak of the American Civil War, at the age of just thirty-two years, have had repercussions for the United States of America and for the world at large that continue to reverberate to the present day.

His term in office over while still a very young man, he returned to the southland where his status as the first Governor of the State of California from Southern California gave him tremendous stature and made him extremely influential in that rapidly growing region of the American West.

Recounting the achievements of John Downey without including his siblings and the extended Downey family would only be telling part of the story. Therefore, included in this timeline you'll find references to his brother Patrick, his sisters Eleanor and Annie and their respective husbands. Patrick died relatively young, and didn't have an opportunity to make his mark in California, but the Downey sisters, Eleanor and Annie certainly did

Also scattered throughout this timeline can be found names and dates unrelated directly to the story. I've included these dates as milestones to remind the reader about what was going on in the world during this period, and to further illustrate the flavor of times in which he lived. This was a period of tremendous change and growth, and he was in a unique position to be a central figure in much of the meaningful progress achieved in the Los Angeles area and beyond. California advanced as much in the generation immediately following the Civil War as the East Coast had during the previous three hundred years and John Downey played a critical role in the development of the region during that most important generation. He had tremendous energy and foresight and he proved to be the right man, in the right place, at the right time for the United States of America, the State of California and for the Los Angeles basin. I know of no other Irishman who during his lifetime impacted his adopted homeland, the state where he settled, and the region where he lived, as completely as John Downey did. I believe that he is the most remarkable man of Irish birth to ever set foot on the North American continent.

Gene O'Sullivan

May, 2012

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## *Timeline with Endnotes*

### **1734**

John Gately Downey's grandfather, Denis Downey, (known as Honest Jack) was born in the town-land of Castlesampson, in the parish of Taughmaconnell, in South County Roscommon. According to John Downey's own handwritten notes, "*my grandfather was Jack Downey, known as "Honest Jack"*".

### **1775**

August 6<sup>th</sup>. Daniel O'Connell is born

### **1776**

July 4 – American Revolution: United States Declaration of Independence. The United States officially declares independence from the British Empire.

### **1781**

Los Angeles was founded by the Spanish on the site of a Native American village.

### **1795**

Denis Downey, father of Governor John Gately Downey is born.

### **1796**

<sup>i</sup>One year after the birth of Denis Downey, John Downey's grandfather, Denis (Honest Jack) died. The inscription on his gravestone in the old cemetery in Taughmaconnell reads as follows.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF DENIS DOWNEY  
WHO DIED DECEMBER THE 20<sup>TH</sup> 1796 AGED 62 YRS  
ERTD BY HIS SON DENIS

### **1790**

<sup>ii</sup>Bridget Gately, mother of John Gately Downey was born in South County Roscommon..

### **1817**

Bridget Downey and John Martin marry.

<sup>iii</sup> Before marrying Denis Downey, Bridget Gately had been married to a man by the name of John Martin.

Bridget Downey and John Martin marry.

### **1818**

<sup>iv</sup> Mary Martin is born,  
John Martin dies after the birth of his first daughter and before the birth of his second daughter.

### **1819**

<sup>v</sup>April 11<sup>th</sup>. Winifred Martin is born.

Bridget Gately marries Dennis Downey she and her two daughters move to the Downey home in

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Castlesampson. Based solely on the year of birth of their first child, the year of their marriage was probably 1819. Dennis was 24 years old and Bridget 29.

<sup>vi</sup>Edward Martin, Eleanor Downey's husband is born in Enniscorthy.

### 1820

<sup>vii</sup>Patrick H Downey born.

This is the first child born to Bridget Gately and Dennis Downey.

Patrick died in Los Angeles in 1867 at the age of 47 years

### 1822

<sup>viii</sup>Peter Donahue, Annie Downey's husband born (1822-1885)

### 1824

November – Andrew Jackson receives more popular votes than John Quincy Adams in the U.S. presidential election.

### 1825

February 9 – After no presidential candidate received a majority of electoral votes, the United States House of Representatives elects John Quincy Adams President of the United States.

### 1826

Severe drought and frequent earthquakes rock California, scarcely any rain fall and cattle died by the thousand.

July 4, Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams die.

### 1827

John Gately Downey (1827-1894) was born June 24, in <sup>ix</sup>Castlesampson, Taughmaconnell parish, County Roscommon, Ireland, to Dennis Downey and <sup>x</sup>Bridget Gately

President: John Quincy Adams (Democratic-Republican/National Republican) Vice President: John C. Calhoun (Democratic-Republican/Democratic) Chief Justice: John Marshall

### 1828

<sup>xi</sup> September 8, 1828, Eleanor Downey is born. (1828-1928)

December 3 – U.S. presidential election: Challenger Andrew Jackson beats incumbent John Quincy Adams and is elected President of the United States.

### 1829

March 4 – Andrew Jackson is inaugurated as the seventh President of the United States.

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### 1832

<sup>xii</sup>Mary and Winifred Martin immigrate to Baltimore, Maryland, USA e they would join their mother's brother, Michael Gately.

### 1835

<sup>xiii</sup>

Los Angeles had been little affected by the revolution that replaced Spanish rule with that of an independent Mexican government in 1821.

November 25, Andrew Carnage was born

### 1836

March 6 – The Battle of the Alamo ends; 189 Texans are slaughtered by about 1,600 Mexicans.

### 1837

<sup>xiv</sup>Dennis Downey, John's father, dies in the family home in Castlesampson.

<sup>xv</sup>Annie, the youngest of the Downey children is born..

Maria Jesus Guirado, John Downey's first wife is born in Los Angeles County

April 17. JP Morgan born

### 1837 to 1841

<sup>xvi</sup>John was ten years old when his father died. His older brother Patrick was seventeen years old and able to help his mother run the farm.

### 1842

At the age of fifteen years, John Downey immigrates to America to join his uncle Michael Downey, and his two <sup>xvii</sup>stepsisters in Baltimore Maryland. It had been his Mothers hope that he would enter the priesthood.

President: John Tyler (Whig/none) Vice President: *vacant* Chief Justice: Roger B. Taney

March 5 – Mexican troops led by Rafael Vasquez invade Texas, briefly occupy San Antonio, and then head back to the Rio Grande. This is the first such invasion since the Texas Revolution.

### 1843

<sup>xviii</sup>Attended Latin School in Charles County Maryland, taught by John F Corcoran, for one year.

### 1844

<sup>xix</sup>Apprenticed to John Callan, a druggist in Washington DC., and began to learn the druggist business.

### 1845

<sup>xx</sup>Moves briefly to Vicksburg for a year, where he was connected, in business, with Oliver

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Woodburn, who had a drug and stationary business.

Rosa Kelley, second wife of John Gately Downey, born in Ireland (1845-1892)

The Irish potato famine begins with devastating results in John Downey's home area, County Roscommon. Before it's over, many of his schoolmates and his uncle would die of starvation (1845-52) County Roscommon was the hardest hit of all the Irish counties during the famine.

### 1846

<sup>xxi</sup>Went to Cincinnati where he was a partner with John Darling in a drugstore there for three years on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup>, and Fremont Street.

### 1847

January 16 – John C. Fremont is appointed Governor of the new California Territory.  
February 11. Thomas Edison is born.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. Daniel O'Connell dies.

### 1848

Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp born (March 19, 1848 – January 13, 1929)

### 1849

<sup>xxii</sup>Against the best advice of his partner, John Darling, John Downey joined the gold rush to California. His journey took 87 days to complete.

<sup>xxiii</sup>November 13<sup>th</sup>. California voters approve a state constitution.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. California formally asks for admission into the Union.

<sup>xxiv</sup>San Jose selected as the first State capitol of California

### 1850

<sup>xxv</sup>After an unsuccessful attempt at gold mining, John worked for a time at the wholesale druggist, Henry Johnson and Company, on Dupont Street, (today's Grant Avenue) San Francisco. While living in San Francisco he became fluent in Spanish. This allowed him to fit seamlessly into the business and social life in Los Angeles when he moved there at the end of the year.

With steady employment, John began to save his money and became engaged in the business of money lending. Around this time he met <sup>xxvi</sup>James McFarland who told him about the opportunities in the Southland. By the autumn of 1850, John had accumulated a tidy nest egg and was looking for an opportunity to invest in.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. California is admitted into the Union becoming the 31<sup>st</sup>. state in the Union. A measure of just how isolated California and especially Los Angeles was from the nation's capital, the news doesn't reach Los Angeles for twelve weeks. During his time in San Francisco

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in 1849 and 1850, John Downey met two men who would play an enormous part in his life in the years ahead. David Broderick & James Porter McFarland

<sup>xxvii</sup> November 1850. Purchased ship's cargo of pharmaceutical compounds at a discount in San Francisco and took delivery at the port of San Pedro, today's Los Angeles Harbor.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Arrived in Los Angeles in December, Just as the news that California had been admitted into the Union reached the community.

Opened a drugstore with <sup>xxix</sup>Dr. J MacFarland. It was the only drugstore between San Francisco and San Diego. Their store was located in a long one story adobe owned by B D Wilson, on the northwest corner of Los Angeles and Commercial streets. John resumes his involvement in the money lending business.

### 1851

John Downey becomes an American citizen.

<sup>xxx</sup>Bridget Downey, John's mother, and his two sisters, Eleanor and Annie, and his brother Patrick, came to Maryland to join Bridget's two older daughters Mary and Winifred Martin. They had experienced great difficulty in Castlesampson, but had survived the famine.

First American child born in Los Angeles, John Gregg Nichols, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1851

<sup>xxxi</sup>Downey involves in incident with desperado

### 1852

February 10<sup>th</sup>. 1852. Married <sup>xxxii</sup>Maria Jesus Guirado  
John Downey married the daughter of <sup>xxxiii</sup>Don Rafael Guirado, a Los Angeles native from a family of early Spanish settlers.

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### 1852,

<sup>xxxiv</sup>August 16: Jim Savage shot and killed by Walter H Harvey. (In 1858, Harvey married Eleanor Downey. He was the father to John Gately Harvey, one of the beneficiary of John Downey's estate).

<sup>xxxv</sup>October 23, advertisement in the Los Angeles Star Newspaper

### 1852-56

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Served as a Los Angeles Councilman and later County Supervisor. These were his first elected political office.

### 1853

He is a member of first Volunteer police force (posse) in Los Angeles. (See Harris Newmark's, Sixty Years in Southern California-pp35)

<sup>xxxvii</sup>In 1853 Senator William Gwin, a leader of pro-slavery interests in California, proposed to



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divide California to create a pro-slavery southern half. He was opposed in this effort by California's other US senator, David C. Broderick.

Downey and MacFarland sell their drugstore.

### 1854

1854 Jan 4, Gov. Bigler, supported by Senator David C. Broderick, addressed the 5th Legislature and called to move the capital to Sacramento (from San Francisco).

In November of 1854, just five years after arriving in California, in partnership with Don Benito Wilson, William Stanford and Phineas Banning purchased a large part of <sup>xxxviii</sup>Ranch De San Pedro, 2400 acres, for the purpose of laying out a new city and harbor. This property strategically fronted on San Pedro Harbor. (Los Angeles Harbor today).

### 1855

Attempt made in the legislature to devise the State into three states, Shasta, in the north, California, in the middle, and Colorado in the south.

The Know Nothing Party gets a foothold in California politics. They are anti-Irish, anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant and their nativist message plays a large part in Downey's decision to enter statewide politics. The Know Nothing Party would ultimately succeed in electing J Neely Johnson, Governor, before dwindling away as a legitimate political force in the State.

John Downey elected Los Angeles county supervisor

<sup>xxxix</sup>1855 David S. Terry (32), born in Kentucky and raised in Texas, was elected to the state's high court and soon appointed as chief justice.

<sup>xl</sup>William Mulholland (September 11, 1855 – July 22, 1935)

His stepsister, Mary Martin, dies in Brayertown Maryland at the age of 37 years.

### 1856

<sup>xli</sup>January 9, John Neely Johnson, the Know Nothing Party candidate is elected governor of California.

February organized and was a partner in the Pioneer Oil Company along with Phineas Banning and others. Brother Patrick is the secretary. The first oil company in California

Helped the Irish Sisters of Charity become established in Los Angeles, and contributed to building their first hospital.

May 22,

John Downey's sisters, <sup>xlii</sup>Annie and Eleanor and brother Patrick arrived in California.

Partner in the Los Angeles Oil Company, the first oil drilling enterprise in California

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<sup>xliii</sup>September 5<sup>th</sup>, John Downey was elected Assemblyman to represent Los Angeles in the California State Legislature.

Appointed Collector Port of San Pedro, a position he passes on to his brother Patrick

Appointed Superintendent of Lighthouses

Appointed US Treasury Agent by President Buchanan

February 1856 letter by John Downey

<http://www.webroots.org/library/usahist/pndobjh5.html>

### 1856

Nov 4, (Irish American) Democrat James Buchanan was elected US president. The American or Know-Nothing Party had nominated Zachary Taylor over Millard Fillmore. The Know-Nothing Party was an anti-foreigner, anti-Catholic political organization. Buchanan easily won the presidential election, gaining 174 electoral votes to Republican John C. Fremont's 141, and Fillmore's eight. Fremont failed to carry California after<sup>xliv</sup> Jasper O'Farrell testified against him bringing to light Fremont's part in the 1846 murder of 3 Californios at San Rafael.

### 1857

May, Major Walter Harris Harvey a native of Georgia, arrived from Washington with an appointment as Register of the Land Office. Harvey would later marry Eleanor Downey.

Bridget Gately Downey dies in Brayertown Maryland at the age of 67 years. She did not live to witness her children's successes in California or to see her son become the Governor of the State.

### 1857

Los Angeles feels the Great Fort Tejon Earthquake, which, at 7.9 on the Richter scale, is the largest earthquake ever recorded in U.S. history at that time. Only two deaths are connected to the earthquake. Los Angeles Sheriff James Barton and three of his deputies are killed in an attempt to capture a fugitive Mexican guerilla in San Juan Capistrano. The fugitive is later captured and hanged.

Wells Fargo & Company opens an office in Los Angeles. Stagecoach baron Phineas Banning founds Wilmington.(later annexed by the City of Los Angeles) The Los Angeles Water Works is formed and a water wheel begins operating at the *Zanja Madre* dam.

### 1858

<sup>xlv</sup>In 1858 Senator James Henry Hammond of South Carolina replied to Senator William H. Seward of New York, "King Cotton"

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<sup>xlvi</sup>October 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Butterfield Overland Stagecoach from the East arrived at the Belle Union Hotel on South Main Street, 21 days after leaving Saint Louis.

October 27, 1858, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt is born

Sister Eleanor married <sup>xlvii</sup>Walter Harvey

### 1859

<sup>xlviii</sup>The State of California experienced a financial depression in 1859.

February 14, 1859 - Oregon is the 33rd state admitted to the Union.

There were 33 states and 9 territories

I W Hellman<sup>xlix</sup>, later to become John Downey's partner in Farmers and Merchants Bank, arrive in Los Angeles with his brother Herman.

A bill by Assemblyman Andres Pico from San Bernardino County to divide the state into two states is approved by the legislature and signed by the governor. The measure gets overwhelming voter approval but is killed by the federal government.

Along with drugstore partner, James P McFarland, he purchased Santa Gertrude<sup>l</sup> Rancho (17,602 acres)

<sup>li</sup>Los Angeles Newspaper article about the city.

Los Angeles County proposes to build a road from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

<sup>lii</sup>Elected Lieutenant Governor of California

<sup>liii</sup>Silver is discovered in Virginia City Nevada.

<sup>liv</sup>The Democratic Ticket for the California State Election

James Porter McFarland returns permanently to Tennessee sells his interest in Rancho Santa Gertrude to Downey.

<sup>lv</sup>September 13<sup>th</sup>. US Senator David Broderick and California Supreme court Justice David Terry face off in a duel in San Francisco.

September 16<sup>th</sup>,  
California US Senator David C Broderick dies.

### 1860

<sup>lvi</sup>Jan 9, Milton Latham (1827-1882), the 6th governor of California, gave his inaugural address. Once Latham took office he had the legislature appoint him to Senator Broderick's seat.

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<sup>lvii</sup> January 14<sup>th</sup>, John G. Downey became the seventh governor of California (1860-62) at the early age of 32 years. (The youngest Governor in California history)

<sup>lviii</sup> His inaugural address was brief.

The States was running a large defecate when he took office and he immediately went to work to balance the budget.

March 2, Governor Downey signed the Bill that made Sacramento the permanent capital of California.

In 1860, the Supervisors of the City of Sacramento deeded to the State of California, the tract of land bounded by L and N, 10th and 12th Streets, and the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 for the erection of the Capitol Building.

April 13,  
The first <sup>lix</sup> Pony Express rider from St. Joseph Missouri reached Sacramento. The rider carried a message from the President of the United States, James Buchanan, to the governor of California, John G. Downey. The journey was completed in eight and a half days.

<sup>lx</sup> Pont Express reaches San Francisco.

April 16th. <sup>lxi</sup> Bullhead Bill Vetoed By vetoing the Bulkhead Bill Governor Downey prevented a politically powerful syndicate from looting the treasury and stealing from San Francisco her waterfront. (Judge Levi Parson)

July,  
A big pro Breckenridge rally is held in Los Angeles. Milton S Latham was the chief speaker. Breckenridge was the pro succession pro slavery candidate for President of the USA.

Breckenridge out polled Lincoln in Los Angeles 263 to 179, taking approximately 60% of the votes cast.

<sup>lxii</sup> 1860, When the Chivalry organized the California Democratic Party to support Vice President John Breckenridge in the 1860 national election for President, with their slogan of “peaceful secession,” Downey again broke with the leaders of his state’s party and supported Stephen Douglas.

<sup>lxiii</sup> August 11, newspaper article in the Los Angeles Star denouncing Downey for not supporting the Party

<sup>lxiv</sup> November 6<sup>th</sup> 1860, Abraham Lincoln is elected president. See election map, footnote #61

<sup>lxv</sup> December 13<sup>th</sup>. Letter to President Lincoln

December 20<sup>th</sup>, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. The civil War

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Between the States was now much more likely to occur.

<sup>lxxvi</sup>Sister Eleanor gives birth to a son, John Downey Harvey, 1860-1949

The population of Los Angeles in the census conducted of 1860 was 4399.

<sup>lxxvii</sup>October 8<sup>th</sup>. Telegraph line completed between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

<sup>lxxviii</sup>December 17. H W Halleck letter

### **1861**

<sup>lxxix</sup>March 4, Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as President of the United States of America.

January 7<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>lxxx</sup>Governor Downey presented the State Legislature with his State of the State address on January 7, 1861, which made clear the political direction that he would guide California:<sup>lxxxi</sup>

January 9<sup>th</sup>. Mississippi succeeds

January 10<sup>th</sup>. Florida succeeds

January 11<sup>th</sup>, Alabama succeeds

January 19<sup>th</sup>. Georgia succeeds.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. Louisiana succeeds.

February 1, Texas succeeds.

February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Six secessionist states send delegates to Montgomery Alabama; the new capital of the Secessionist States, later a constitution is adopted.

<sup>lxxii</sup>March 4<sup>th</sup>, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of the United States.

<sup>lxxiii</sup>March 22, 1861. Winfield Scott letter

April 17<sup>th</sup>, Virginia succeeds.

<sup>lxxiv</sup>A proclamation issues by the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco honoring John Gately Downey for his veto of the Bulkhead Bill.

April 12

<sup>lxxv</sup>The American Civil War begins (1861-65). It took twelve days for the news to reach Los Angeles.

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<sup>lxxvi</sup> President Lincoln imposes newspaper censorship.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Arkansas April 17<sup>th</sup>, Virginia succeeds..

<sup>lxxvii</sup> May 11<sup>th</sup>. Pro Union Demonstration held in San Francisco.

May 15,

<sup>lxxviii</sup> Oversaw the laying of the corner stone for the new State Capital Building in Sacramento.

<sup>lxxix</sup> May 17. No. IVIII -Concurrent Resolution

May 20<sup>th</sup>. North Carolina April 17<sup>th</sup>, Virginia succeeds..

May 25<sup>th</sup>. President Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War

June 8<sup>th</sup>. Tennessee April 17<sup>th</sup>, Virginia succeeds..

July 1861,<sup>lxxx</sup> the War Department requested that California's Governor Downey raise a force of volunteers

July 14, 1861,

Raised one regiments of infantry and six companies of cavalry for the Union forces in the Civil War.

<sup>lxxxii</sup> Governor Downey wrote to President Lincoln:.

<sup>lxxxiii</sup> July 24, Added an additional four regiments of infantry and one of cavalry

July 15.

A street fracas occurred on in San Francisco between Gov. Downey, John Middleton, a leading auctioneer, and Myles D. Sweeny, president of Hibernia bank, over his veto of the Bullhead Bill. Downey, evidently not amused by the other gentleman's comments, he punched Middleton on the forehead knocking him to the ground. Calmer heads prevail and order was quickly restored. All three were prominent Douglas Democrats.

August 14<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>lxxxiii</sup> Simon Cameron, Secretary of war, letter to governor Downey.

August 15' 1861.

<sup>lxxxiv</sup> Secretary of War Cameron, letter to Governor Downey.

<sup>lxxxv</sup> August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Issued call for volunteers to meet the request of Secretary Cameron dated August 14<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>lxxxvi</sup> The Governors message to the legislature regarding the States Contingent.

<sup>lxxxvii</sup> September 18. H W Hallack Letter

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<sup>lxxxviii</sup>September 19, 1861,

Patrick Downey marries Mary Reilly, at San Gabriel Mission. The witnesses were, Patrick Ray and Mary Delaney. There is no record of children from this union

October.

<sup>lxxxix</sup>In the first ever cross-continent telegraphic message sent from California, Governor Downey stated to President Lincoln, "I will keep California safe for the Union."

The overland telegraph had been completed and in October 1861 he sent a congratulatory message to the President Lincoln on establishment of this new means of communications between East and West

November 7<sup>th</sup>, Telegraph was opened to the public. The cost of using this service was prohibitively high

December 20,

<sup>xc</sup>Appointed John A Sutter as Major General, 5th.Division, of the California State Militia.

<sup>xc<sup>i</sup></sup>Col. Agoston Haraszthy, was asked by Calif. Governor John Downey to go to Europe and to find sample cuttings of the best European varieties of grapes. When the legislatures refused to fund this venture the governor contributed generously out of his own account.

<sup>xc<sup>ii</sup></sup>Governor's agenda...

### 1862

Downey left office with the state's finances showing a surplus.

Under Downey's leadership, the state adapted more humane policies towards the Indian population.

He saw to it that the State set aside money for a complete geological survey.

Governor Downey implemented policies to establish and to support a State library System.

<sup>xc<sup>iii</sup></sup>January 10, Leland Stanford inaugurated as Governor

<sup>xc<sup>iv</sup></sup>May 1, the port of New Orleans falls to Admiral Farragut. The south has lost its principle port for the export of cotton to Europe, and thereby its principle source of income to finance the war.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. 1864, Sister <sup>xc<sup>v</sup></sup>Anna (Annie) married San Francisco industrialist, Peter Donahue

On September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued a preliminary proclamation that he would order the emancipation of all slaves in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union control by January 1, 1863

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<sup>xcvi</sup>JGD Register his ranch brand for Warner Ranch.

Severe floods followed by years of drought decimate the cattle industry. Downey turns to raising sheep

Heavy rains continue to flood the area. Later, however, the first of several great droughts begins. The droughts persist over the next two years resulting in the loss of 70% of Los Angeles County livestock and the end of the old ranching industry. In order to protect Union interests in Southern California, Fort Drum is established to house a garrison of U.S. Army troops.

Sister Eleanor gives birth to a daughter, Mary Harvey.

<sup>xcvii</sup>October 21, 1862. John Downey letter to Governor Stanford.

November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivers his Gettysburg Address.

### **1863**

<sup>xcviii</sup>January 1, 1863. Lincoln's Emancipation Declaration

<sup>xcix</sup>January 8, 1863, Governor Downey presents the Governors Annual Address, to the state legislature.

<sup>c</sup> Czar Alexander II's decided to send a fleet to San Francisco and New York.

<sup>ci</sup>Re-nominated by the Democrats, but defeated in his attempt to be re-elected Governor by Low.

July 30. Henry Ford is born.

<sup>cii</sup>November 19, Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.

### **1864.**

<sup>ciii</sup>Elected as a delegate to the national convention of the <sup>civ</sup>National Union Party.

<sup>cv</sup>Nominated from the first district as their congressional candidate by the Democratic Party, but declined to accept the nomination

1863, A smallpox epidemic spread through the Los Angeles community resulting in many deaths

### **1865**

<sup>cvi</sup>Partners with Phineas Banning in the development of Pioneer Oil Company, the first oil company in California. They soon acquired to all petroleum, or rock oil in San Pasqual Rancho.

<sup>cvii</sup>Begins subdividing his Santa Gertrude Rancho.

<sup>cviii</sup>April 9<sup>th</sup> Civil War ends. See map with footnote # 105



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

April 14<sup>th</sup>, John Downey issues the first deed of land in the Santa Gertrude tract to Joseph H Burke. The price, \$500.00 for 250 acres of land.

<sup>cix</sup>Built a brick residence at 345 South Main Street, located between Third and Fourth Streets. It was the first house in Los Angeles with a ballroom. Downey exchanged some land in the new town of Downey with JH Burke for the Main Street property. Burke has operated a blacksmiths shop on the site. Today, The Ronald Ragan State of California office building sits on that site today.

April 15<sup>th</sup>, Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.

### **1866-67**

<sup>cx</sup>November 13<sup>th</sup>, Downey ran an advertisement in one of the Los Angeles newspapers.

Elected Los Angeles Supervisor.

July 24<sup>th</sup>. Tennessee is the first of the confederate states readmitted into the Union.

### **1867**

Served as Los Angeles Supervisor.

The Governor's only brother, Patrick Downey, died in Los Angeles, at the age of 47 years. .

Eleanor's daughter, Mary Harvey dies.

Brother-in-law, Walter H Harvey died.

1867. The Fenian rising occurs in Ireland.

### **1868**

<sup>cx</sup>March 23 – The University of California is founded in Oakland

Entered banking business with <sup>cxii</sup> James Heyworth  
John Downey and James Alvinza Hayward founded Los Angeles' first "official" bank.

May 23 – Kit Carson, American trapper, scout, and Indian agent dies (b. 1809)

His Los Angeles Water Co. drilled the first artesian wells in Compton. They were later acquired by the city of Los Angeles and merged into what now is the Los Angeles Water & Power

November 3 – U.S. presidential election, 1868 Ulysses S. Grant

### **1869**

Along with Phineas Banning organized and financed the <sup>cxiii</sup>San Pedro Railroad.

<sup>cxiv</sup> Begins building the <sup>cxv</sup>Downey Block on Main Street at Temple, in Los Angeles. It became

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

the center of retail in the fledgling City of Los Angeles, and the first organized shopping center on the West Coast. By selecting that location, John Downey established the “City Center” in this new and growing community. Today, Los Angeles City Hall sits on that very block.

<sup>cxvi</sup>Began his acquisition of the Warner ranch, in San Diego County.

April 10<sup>th</sup>, The Union Pacific and the Central Pacific meet at Promontory Flat Utah and celebrated the completion of the transcontinental railway.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Sister <sup>cxvii</sup>Eleanor married Edward Martin from Enniscorty County Wexford

November 17 – In Egypt, the Suez Canal, linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, is inaugurated in an elaborate ceremony

December 7 – American outlaw Jesse James commits his first confirmed bank robbery in Gallatin, Missouri.

The British Parliament ends transportation to Australia as punishment for criminals.

### 1870

<sup>cxviii</sup>February 10<sup>th</sup>. Anaheim California, is incorporated.

July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Georgia becomes the last of the eleven confederate states to be formally readmitted into the Union.

### 1871

January 10 – John D. Rockefeller incorporates Standard Oil.

Along with Isaiah Hellman organized and became President of the <sup>cxix</sup>Farmers and Merchants Bank. The first chartered Bank in Southern California.

March, Organized the Southern California Agricultural Society for the counties Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Kern and San Diego.

October 8-1. The Great Chicago Fire. Downey and two others are the only ones to answer appeal for help in Los Angeles..

(See Harris Newmark’s, Sixty Years in Southern California-pp431-432)

### 1872

December 7<sup>th</sup>, Involved in the creation of the <sup>cxx</sup>Los Angeles Library. Sat on the board of Directors of the Library for six years. Donated his personal library to help stock the libraries bookshelves.

April first

He went to San Francisco along with Harris Newmark, and was successful in representing Los Angeles in discussions with Collis Huntington, with regard to Los Angeles’s efforts to bring the Southern Pacific Railroad through Los Angeles.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1872, A public meeting was held at the Los Angeles Courthouse. Governor Downey called the assembly to order. And resolutions were adopted pledging financial assistance from to county providing the railroad was constructed within a given time

<sup>cxxi</sup>December 7, 1872. Organize the Library Association.

### 1873

<sup>cxxii</sup>The Russian Atlantic fleet sails into New York harbor. The Russian Pacific fleet sails into San Francisco Bay

Was chairman of the group that established the Board of Trade, now known as the <sup>cxxiii</sup>Chamber of Commerce.

Old West historical marker:

May 11<sup>th</sup>. Wild Bill Hitchcock shot dead in Deadwood Gulch, Wyoming

Oct 13, <sup>cxxiv</sup> Established the City of Downey

<sup>cxxv</sup>October 1873. John Downey addresses the Irrigating Convention, held in Los Angeles, Downey suggested a number of measures, including the employment of Ericsson steam-engine pumps, that should be taken to improve the water supply situation “for the good of the whole State.” Believing that there was sufficient water available for the population, Downey invoked the Constitutional idea of protecting the “general welfare” in order to solve the problem of obtaining the necessary infrastructure:

### 1874

In 1874, John Downey’s, Downey Land and Development Company, started the community of East Los Angeles using in his publicity such slogans as "Splendid Home sites for all." East Los Angeles comprised all of the land east of the Los Angeles River.

He was a key organizer of the Los Angeles City Water Company.

John Downey, in partnership with John S Griffin, organized and financed the laying of iron pipe water distribution system throughout East Los Angeles

September 28,

Along with partners, O. W. Childs and John M. Baldwin, organized development of a horse-railway in Los Angeles also known as the <sup>cxxvi</sup>Main Street Line

<sup>cxxvii</sup>John Downey wrote in The Overland Monthly for June 1874, about the cultivation of citrus and grape crops in California

<sup>cxxviii</sup>Mr. and Mrs. Downey contributed generously to the construction fund to build Saint Vibians Catholic Cathedral on South Main Street, Los Angeles. (Across the street from the Downey residence at 245 South Mains Street

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

November 11, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer- Churchill was born.

### 1875

Purchased <sup>cxxix</sup>Warner Ranch in San Diego County. (10 leagues .X 4428 acres per league.)

### 1876

<sup>cxxx</sup> Ex-governor Downey presides at driving of the golden spike, which marked the completion of the rail line linking San Francisco with Los Angeles.

Ex-Governor Downey represented Los Angeles at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.. He traveled to Philadelphia in his brother-in-law's, Peter Donahue, (Father of California Industry) private rail car along with James Flood (The Bonanza King.), his sister Anna Downey Donahue. Marvin Donahue, Peter's son, and his other brother-in- law, Edward Martin, and his wife Eleanor Downey Martin)

On June 25, 1876, George Armstrong Custer perished at Little Big Horn

<sup>cxxxi</sup>**1876:** Otto von Bismarck states,

### 1877

<sup>cxxxii</sup>His final will was dated May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1877.

### 1878

In the September 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the San Diego Union newspaper, Governor Downey writes about his experiences. In particular, he discusses the subdivision of his Santa Gertrudes Rancho, and talks about small farms and that part this they played in the settlement of the of that area

### 1879

With Isaiah Hellmann and Ozro Childs John Downey donated 308 acres of land for the establishment of the <sup>cxxxiii</sup>University of Southern California Campus, and to provide the necessary seed money for the construction of the first buildings on the campus.

John Downey was a member of the executive committee of the <sup>cxxxiv</sup>New Constitution Party

Declined the nomination for governor offered by the <sup>cxxxv</sup>Workingman's Party.

Edison developed the electric light bulb.

November 10, 1879. Padraig Pearse was born in Dublin

21st December, 1879, Joseph Stalin, was born in Gori, Georgia

### 1880

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

Douglas MacArthur was born 26 January 1880

<sup>cxxxvi</sup>On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Edward Martin, Eleanor's husband dies in San Francisco.

In 1880, John Edward, along with Mr.Ozro Childs, and former Governor Downey persuaded the State of California to purchase 160 acres in Los Angeles to foster agriculture in the Southland. The property then known as Agriculture Park still exists for the benefit of the people today. It is now known as Exposition Park, home to the Los Angeles Coliseum and the Los Angeles County Museum.

Elected to the first board of trustees of the University of Southern California

In 1880, John G. Downey became sole owner of Warner's Ranch. Travelers had been coming to the hot springs in increasing numbers and in 1894, Downey began issuing pamphlets advertising the spa. The first guest cabins were built in 1900, and as the automobile replaced the stagecoach, visitors multiplied with every passing year.

<sup>cxxxvii</sup>October 23, 1880

President Rutherford B Hayes visited Los Angeles on October 23, 1880. General William T Sherman, and the Sectary of War, Alexander Ramsey accompanied President Hayes. The President was received by Governor John Gately Downey.

### 1881

July 2, 1881, President James Garfield is assassinated.

As a marker to show where all of this fits into the history of the Wild West.  
July 13-14, 1881 - At midnight, Sheriff Pat Garrett shot Billy the Kid dead.

<sup>cxxxviii</sup>October 26, 1881 the Gunfight at the OK corral took place in Tombstone Arizona.

### 1882

January 30, 1882, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born. (FDR)

Historical Marker: April 3, 1882 -- Bob Ford killed outlaw Jesse James.

### 1883

<sup>cxxxix</sup>February 2, 1883. Newspaper article about Maria Downey's death.

He was the founder and vice president of the Historical Society of Southern California.

cxl

Maria Guirado Downey met an untimely death in a train accident in the Tehachapi Mountains in January 29, 1883. John Downey survived, but the horror of this event affected him for the rest of his life, and effectively brought to an end the highly productive part of his life

cxli

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

John suffered a nervous breakdown following the death of his wife, Maria. He states in his own notes that he did not return to Los Angeles for three years following Maria's death. He spent time with his sisters in San Francisco immediately following this personal tragedy.

### **1884**

<sup>cxlii</sup>

Governor Downey explained how he spent his time in the years after Maria's death.

May 8, Harry Truman was born.

### **1885**

<sup>cxliii</sup>

In September of 1885, John embarked on a journey around the world.

November 26, Peter Donahue, Annie's husband dies after a very short illness.

### **1886**

After returning from his round the world tour he again resumed control of his business interests. His nephew, John Downey Harvey, had managed his interests while he was away.

### **1887**

It appears however that he spent most of his time at the Warner Ranch from then on.

### **1888**

Married Rosa V. Kelley, a close family from Ireland.

Rosa was a music teacher, and her name shows up in the 1880 census under the list of residents at the Downey home.

<sup>cxliv</sup>Submitted autobiographical information to Hubert Howe Bancroft. (See page 148-49-50)

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### **1889**

After remarrying, he and Rosa appear to have spent most of their time split between their home in Los Angeles and the Warner Ranch.

1889 Aug 14, David S. Terry, former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court (1857-1859), was shot by a bodyguard of Stephen Field, an associate justice of the US Supreme Court, after Terry slapped Field in the face at a railroad restaurant in Lathrop, Ca. (SFC, 9/7/09, p.C6)([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_S.\\_Terry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_S._Terry))

### **1890**

### **1891**

February 12, 1891, Historical Society of Southern California is incorporated. John G Downey Vice-President

### **1892**

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

1892 Heavy rains flooded the entire Central Valley and produced a lake that was some 250-300 miles long and 20-30 miles wide. Sacramento was under water for 3 months and in LA it rained for 28 straight days. Sonora had 102 inches by the end of Jan. Prof. William Brewer, the principal ass't. to state geologist Josiah Whitney, supposed that one-fourth of the taxable state property was under water. [some confusion here with the deluge of 1862]

### 1893

<sup>cxlv</sup>Rosa V Kelley, his second wife died.

### 1894

March 1, after an attack of pneumonia, Governor <sup>cxlvi</sup>John Gately Downey died at his home, 345 South Main Street in Los Angeles at the age of 66 years and nine plus month.

John Downey's will, which was not found until sometime after his death, was finally settled in November of 1900. Many of the beneficiaries were dead by that time so the bulk of his estate went to his sister Eleanor, and her son by Walter Harvey, John Downey Harvey. Harvey, an attorney, probated the estate. A considerable portion of the inheritance that went to Harvey may have been lost as an unfortunate result of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. See below

### 1896

<sup>cxlvii</sup>Annie Downey Donahue, died at her home in San Francisco. She was 59 years old.

### 1897

John Downey's stepsister Winifred Martin dies in Baltimore Maryland and is interred with her sister and mother in Saint Mary catholic graveyard in Brayertown Maryland

### 1920

Los Angeles surpassed SF in population 576,673 to 506,676.

### 1928.

<sup>cxlviii</sup>Eleanor Downey Martin, sister of John Gately Downey the seventh Governor of California, dies in San Francisco.

### 1929

Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp died January 13, 1929

### 1949

John Gately Harvey, nephew of John Gately Downey dies in San Francisco.

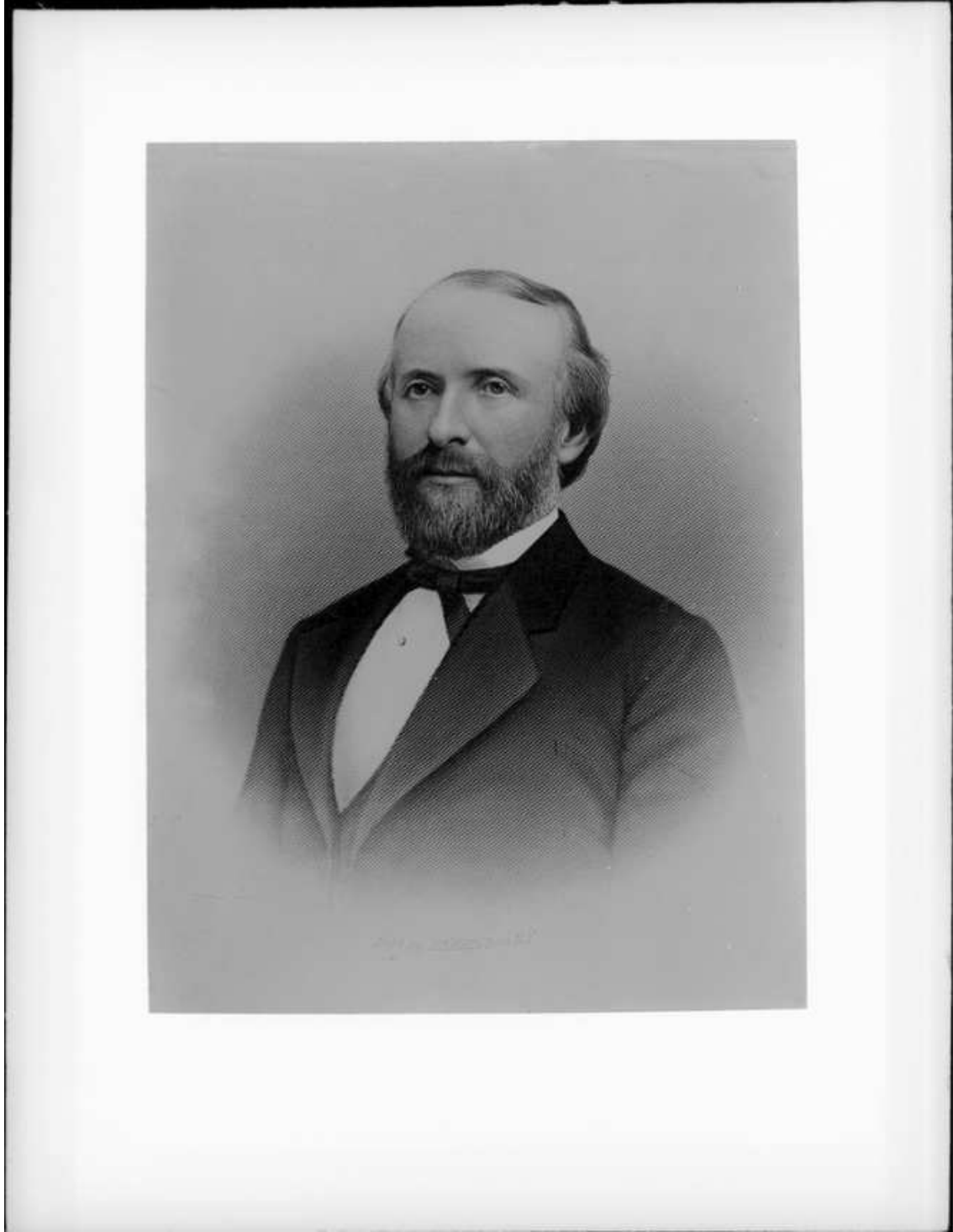
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<sup>cxlix</sup>Downey Extended Family Tree (in America)

<sup>cl</sup>Notable Irish people in the American West during the John Downey period.

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John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote



John Gately Downey circa 1868



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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There is nothing to be found on the record about the wife of Dennis, Honest Jack Downey. Dennis died when he was sixty-two years old leaving her a widow. Apparently, she was considerably younger than he was, perhaps twenty years or more.

Also unknown is how many children they had. There was a John Downey in Castlesampson who was most likely their child. It's likely that the Governor was named for him. Since the Governor has told us in his notes that he was raised in his grandfather's house in Castlesampson, it's reasonable to assume that after Honest Jack's death that his wife raised their family in that home. What's curious however, is how Dennis junior, the Governor's father came to own the family home given that was the youngest in his generation. A reasonable explanation might be that his other siblings had gone out into the world on their own leaving their mother and the youngest child there. Dennis then may have in turn married after his mother died.

Odd Coincidences.

Governor John Downey's grandfather Dennis Downey, also known as Honest Jack Downey, died on December 20th 1796 at the age of 62 years, and one year after governor Downey's father, Dennis Downey, was born.

Governor Downey's mother, Eleanor Gately, lost her first husband John Martin, the same year their youngest daughter Mary Martin, was born.

1837: John Downey's mother, Bridget Gately, lost her second husband, Dennis Downey, the same year that their youngest child, Annie Downey, was born.

Walter Harvey, Eleanor Downey's first husband, dies before the birth of their youngest child.

Patrick Downey had no children

John Downey had no children

Annie Downey had no children

Bridget Downey Born 1790

Died September 20, 1857, aged 67 years

Winifred Martin Born April 11, 1819.

Died April 4, 1897. Aged 78 years.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Never married, had no children.

Mary Martin

Died 17, January 1855

Never married, had no children.

<sup>ii</sup> Bridget Gately, born 1790, in South County Roscommon. She will marry John Martin with whom she has two daughters. Bridget died in Charles County Maryland, on September 20th. 1857. She was 67 years old. Bridget was about twenty-seven years old when she and John Martin got married. Unfortunately, Bridget did not live to see her son become the first Irish born governor of an American State.

Inscription on her headstone.

Sacred

to the memory of

Mrs. Bridget Downey

Who departed this life

September 20th. 1857

At her residence St. Mary's

Institute Bryantown

Chas. Co. Md. Aged 67 years.

May she rest in pace

<sup>iii</sup> There are no official records available to confirm or verify the exact date that John Martin and Bridget Gately got married. However, some assumptions can be drawn based on the birth of their second daughter, Winifred, for whom we have a reliable date of birth. Winifred was born on April 11th. 1819. If you assume that their first child, Mary, was born the previous year, in 1818, which would allow for a marriage date around 1817.

It appears that both Bridget and John came from local families in the farming community around Taughmaconnell, and that they were farmers themselves. John's age is unknown at this time and

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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whether or not he had his own farm is also unknown. There is no indication however, that Bridget inherited any land when John died. Also unknown is the exact date that John Martin died. Once again some assumptions can be made based on known dates. Based on the information found on his tombstone, Patrick Downey, the first child born to Bridget Gately and Dennis Downey was born in 1820. The exact date of birth is not noted on the tombstone, just the year. If Patrick was born late in that year, and if we go backwards to the date of birth for Winifred Martin, we have a maximum time frame of about twenty months. If you factor in the traditional one-year mourning period common in Irish society, you can come to the conclusion that John Martin may have died before Winifred was born.

Together they had two daughters, Mary and Winifred. Mr. Martin died leaving Bridget a young widow.

<sup>iv</sup> -Mary Martin, stepsister to John Gately Downey.

Born in south County Roscommon, Ireland. Date of birth unconfirmed but believed to be 1818. Died Bryantown Maryland, January 17th. 1855. Aged, about 37 years

<sup>v</sup> Winifred Martin, second daughter born to Bridget Downey and John Martin. Born, April 11th. 1819. Winifred died in Maryland on April 4th, 1897, at the age of seventy-eight years.

<sup>vi</sup> During his lifetime Edward Martin became one of the wealthiest men in California. His holdings included 800,000 acres of land in California and Oregon. (About fifty percent more land than in all of County Roscommon) He was one of the first oil men in California. He had a real estate business, a liquor importing business and was heavily involved in banking. When his estate was probated it was one of the richest ever in the history of the state.

<sup>vii</sup> **Patrick Downey.**

According to the inscription on his headstone at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma California, Patrick was born in 1820 and died in 1867.

There is a record of a Patrick Downey marrying a Mary Reilly at San Gabriel Mission on September 9, 1861. The witnesses were Patrick Ray and Mary Delaney. Patrick died in Los Angeles in 1867.

In 1856, Patrick Downey was appointed Collector Port of San Pedro, succeeding his brother. Also in 1856, Patrick served as secretary of the Pioneer Oil Company

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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<sup>viii</sup> Peter Donahue became known as the father of California industry. He was the first man to smelt iron on the West Coast. He was the founder of Union Iron and Brass in San Francisco. Union Iron and Brass built everything from fireplace grating to battleships. He built the first operational railroad in California and was the founder of Pacifica Gas and Electric Company, which still provides gas and electricity to most of California.

<sup>ix</sup> **Castlesampson** is a town land, located in the parish of Taughmaconnell, in South County Roscommon, and about five miles west of the town of Athlone. The town-land gets its name from a 15th century stone castle built there by the local chieftain from the Kelly/Keogh family. So physically impressive was this man, that the local people compared him to the biblical Sampson. His castle thus became known as Castlesampson. It was destroyed by Cromwell around 1650 as he plundered his way towards Galway. All that is left of the original structure today are a few remnants of the original limestone walls and a pile of stone debris. In the years following its destruction, local people used the stone from the castle ruins to build their homes, stables and outhouses. It was from this source that the stone to build the home that John Gately Downey was born in was taken.

### <sup>x</sup> ***Bridget Gately Downey***

Before she married Dennis Downey, Bridget Gately was married to a gentleman named John Martin. Mr. Martin died leaving her with two young daughters. Subsequently, she married Dennis Downey and together they had four children, two boys (Patrick and John) and two girls. (Eleanor and Anna)

<sup>xi</sup> Thumbnail sketch Eleanor Downey.

Born September 8th.1828, in Castlesampson town-land,

Taughmaconnell parish, (pronounced, top-ma-connell)

South County Roscommon  
Ireland.

Closest town: Athlone. (Four miles east)

Father: Dennis Downey.

Mother: Bridget Gately.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Bridget Gately had been widowed before marrying Dennis Downey. She was previously married to a man named John Martin with whom she had two daughters, Mary and Winifred Martin.

Eleanor was approximately seventeen years old when the great Irish famine (1845/1852) began.

Her brother John Gately Downey, one year older than Eleanor, the seventh Governor of California, came to America in 1842. John came to California in 1849, and eventually settled in Los Angeles, California, in December 1850.

Eleanor came to America in 1851, when she was 23 years old, along with her mother Bridget, older brother, Patrick, and younger sister, Annie. They originally settled in Bryantown, Charles County, Maryland, where their two step-sisters, Winifred and Mary Martin, lived. Her step-sister had a school, '*St. Mary's Institute, an Academy for Young Ladies*'. While there, Eleanor studied to be a school teacher.

Eleanor, along with her brother Patrick, (1820-1867) and her sister Annie, (1837-1896) joined their brother John, (1827-1894) in California, on May 22, 1856. She was 28 years old.

In 1860, her brother, John Gately Downey (1827-1894) became the seventh governor of California.

Eleanor taught school in Los Angeles before she married Major Walter Harvey, from Georgia, in 1858. Eleanor and Walter had two children, John Downey Harvey (1860-1947) and Mary (1862-1867).

Walter Harvey, who was born in 1820, died in 1861.

On May 13th, 1869, she married Irish-born businessman Edward Martin. Mr. Martin was from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland, and arrived in San Francisco in 1849. Edward Martin was a widower with seven children. They were married at San Gabriel Mission in Los Angeles. The witnesses were John G Downey and Catherine Den. Together they had three sons, Andrew (1870-1899), Peter (1871-1915), and Walter (1874-1957).

Her husband, Edward Martin, preceded her in death on May 12th, 1880. His estate was one of the largest ever-probated in California at the time. He then owned 600,000 acres in Oregon and 200,000, in California, around where today's cities of Whittier, Riverside, and Santa Ana are, as well as at the oil fields around Sterns Rancho.

Eleanor Martin was known as the "Czarina" of San Francisco High Society, and presided over the period referred to as "*The Gilded age of high society*", for 59 years. Her home was known as the "fortress of respectability". Three presidents, William Howard Taft, Teddy Roosevelt and William McKinley, were among the many notable guests in her palatial home at 2040 Broadway Street.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Nothing in Eleanor's background growing up in Castlesampson prepared her for this role in life. Her brother, John Gately Downey, was involved in politics in Los Angeles by the time she arrived in California. John had married Maria Jesus Guirado in 1852. John was twenty five years old at the time, and Maria just fifteen, the same age as John's youngest sister, Annie.

Consequently, Eleanor acted as hostess for her brother at both social and political events for some time. This was her introduction into the world of politics and high society, a world where she would thrive years later in San Francisco, after she married Edward Martin. By the time she reached middle age, Eleanor had inherited three enormous fortunes, her husband's estate, most of Annie Downey's estate, and the bulk of her brother John's estate. She managed her considerable assets from her late husband's office on Montgomery Street until late in her life.

Three of her Eleanor's five children preceded her in death.

Eleanor Downey Martin, born 1828, died in San Francisco California on July 6th, 1928. She may well have been the wealthiest woman in California at the time of her death.

All of the Downey's and Donahue's gave generously to charities of every denomination during their lifetimes. The Catholic diocese of San Francisco, and Archbishop Reardon in particular, were major beneficiary in their final wills.

The American Camellia Society named a camellia for her '*Eleanor Martin Supreme*'

<sup>xii</sup> At the age of thirteen and fourteen years, Mary and Winifred Martin immigrated to their mother's brother in Baltimore, Maryland in the 1830's. There they attended school, becoming schoolteachers. After completing their education, they went to Charles County, seeking an opportunity to open a boarding school for girls. They found what they were looking for in Bryantown, where they founded St Mary's Institute for Girls. This school was operated in conjunction with Saint Mary's Parish.

*Very little is known about the early life of Mary Jenkins. However, we do know that she was better educated than most Maryland farm girls of that period. She was just past her twelfth birthday when her mother took her across the Potomac River to Alexandria, Virginia, and entered her in the [Catholic school operated in connection with St. Mary's Catholic Church](#). This school was organized and staffed by the Sisters of Charity. A copy of the first receipt for board and tuition (for \$25), signed by Sister Bernadina and dated November 26, 1835, is in the files of the Surratt House Museum. The Sisters of Charity very kindly checked their archives and confirmed that Sister Bernadina was in charge of the school during its entire period of operation, 1832 through 1839.*

*It was during her stay at this school that Mary Elizabeth converted to Catholicism. At her confirmation, she must have chosen to emulate St. Eugenia, a legendary saint whose feast day*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*falls on Christmas. She used her confirmation name of Eugenia frequently, and many writers erroneously give her middle name as Eugenia...*

*One last word on her education; we need to bury a myth. A newspaper reporter wrote in 1865 that Mrs. Surratt had attended "Miss Winifred Martin's Catholic School for girls in Alexandria." Almost without exception, every writer since then has repeated this as gospel. The fact is, however, that it was her daughter, [Miss Anna Surratt, who attended Miss Winifred Martin's school. And that school was in Bryantown, Maryland--not in Alexandria, Virginia. The Martin school was operated in connection with St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bryantown. The Martin sisters are buried there and have impressive gravestones. \[But\] Mary's ties are with the Sisters of Charity and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria.](#)*

After arriving in Baltimore, the Martin sisters appear to have become teachers.

A book was published by St. Mary's parish in Bryantown, Charles County Maryland, in 1993 has mention of the Misses Martin in it. This is a quote from that publication,

*"In 1859 a part of the old frame church had been moved to a plot near the new church to serve as school called 'St. Mary's Institute', an Academy for Young Ladies.*

This long quotation provided more details about the new school and its founders:

*"In the early years of the nineteenth century there came to Charles County two native-born Irish women, Mary and Winifred Martin. These two sisters, in company with a Miss Major, were seeking a likely spot for the opening of a school. They came finally to Bryantown and decided to enter upon their venture. An old dwelling on the church property was renovated and equipped and opened under the title, Saint Mary's Institute. The Institute was a boarding school for young ladies. The venture seems to have been immediately successful and continued over a period of years. Dr. Walter Fairfax Boarman was the good angel of this first school. It was he who made the necessary repairs to the dwelling that was to house the Institute and was later most generous in sending to the school provisions for the boarders and wood for cooking and heating. (Taken from St. Mary's Catholic Church Monthly Bulletin, Vol 1., No. 3, March 1943) These women and "their loyal helpers and friends laid a firm foundation for the glorious edifice that Catholic education has builded (sic) in this parish. Whilest their bodies lie in the hallowed ground within the shadow of the church their brave spirits march on in the sacrifices made and the results achieved by those of later years who have grasped the torch from their failing hands and carried it ever forward". (ibid)*

More from this book - *"Actually, the founders of this school are buried in the part of the old cemetery where the building they had turned into a school once stood, between the present church and the rectory. It was a very successful institution, patronized not only by the local families, but also by pupils from a distance. After Miss Martin retired, it was carried on by Mrs.*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*Daniel Major and her daughters. Notices of it occur in The Catholic Mirror as late as 1865. At that time it became another of the innumerable casualties of the Civil War.*

A local Charles County author has abstracted items from two newspapers in the 1800's

*From "Abstracts from the Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser Volume Two: 1855-1869" by Roberta Wearmouth; February 15, 1855, Volume XI, Number 42.*

*Mrs. Mary Martin died at St. Mary's Institute near Bryantown Thursday, 25 January. August 9, 1855,*

*Volume XII, Number 15 - Mary Martin estate probated - Winefried Martin, ad. August 28, 1856,*

*fair held at Miss Martin's Institute. At 11 a.m. the grand Oratorio commenced in church, full orchestra, headed by some of the most distinguished professors from the city also, some ladies, amongst whom Misses Mudd and Miss A. Fitzpatrick from Charles. Concert in Miss Martin's exhibition room was truly grand when the above mentioned ladies distinguished themselves. Eatables were in abundance. Two tables set in grove where a dinner was served that would have done credit to some of our grandest hotels, where from 2-300 persons sat down. \$800 was taken in with \$400 clear profit. Display of fireworks sublime; the whole atmosphere illuminated with explosion of hand grenades and rockets.*

*From the Abstracts, Volume 6, 1894-1898. March 16, 1894, Volume L, Number 41; Winifred Martin, Baltimore, taught school in Bryantown for many years. Brother, ex-Governor John Downey, California, died first of month. April 9, 1897, Volume LIII, Number 45; Miss Winifred Martin died at Altamont Hotel, Baltimore on Sunday. 78 years. Born in Castle Sampson, Roscommon county, Ireland and came to this county about 50 years ago. Her family settled here and Miss Martin founded and conducted St. Mary's Academy, fashionable boarding school for young ladies at Bryantown. A number of years ago her family moved to California where they amassed a considerable fortune. Half-sister to late Governor Downey, of Los Angeles. Her only near relative in this country was sister-in-law, Mrs. Eleanor Martin, Los Angeles and nephew Walter S. Martin, San Francisco. Miss Martin came to Baltimore about 8 years ago and for past 2 years lived at Altamont Hotel. Faithfully served by Margaret Malone. Dr. George D. Mudd, her attending physician, had charge of funeral arrangements which took place from the Cathedral. Present were distinguished Catholic churchmen from various sections of the country. Interment was in family lot at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown.*

*MVolume XIII, Number 18 - Grand festival held at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, and a Miss Winifred Martin's will was probated in Orphans' Court of Baltimore City - leaves more than \$150, 000 to Catholic churches and institutions. Among large number of bequests are following in this county: \$40 to parish priests of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bryantown, \$25 to pay for masses for departed souls and \$25 for care of burial lot of testatrix; \$1000 for scholarship in*



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*Loyola College boys from Charles County or lower Maryland; \$200 to pastor St. Peter's Church, Waldorf, \$100 for his own use and \$100 for improving church or parsonage; \$200 to pastor St. Thomas' Church; \$300 to pastor of St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, of which \$200 to be used for building a church for colored people; \$100 each to pastors of Catholic churches at Newport, Cobb Neck and Pomfret; \$300 to Mrs. Margaret Queen Jamison of Phoenix Hall; \$300 to Francis DeSales Mudd, Hughesville; farm of 20 acres, Bryantown to Mrs. Fannie Carroll and her six children plus \$2200; farm of 20 acres, Bryantown, to Mrs. Mary C. Fladung and her children, in addition to \$2100; \$200 each to Hortense Diggs, Cora Thompson and James Thompson, Charles County; \$100 to Edwardina Pye, St. Thomas'; \$400 to Mrs. Martha Burch, Bryantown and \$800 to four daughters; \$100 to Angela Boarman, Charles County. Executors named were Frank R. Murphy, Dr. George D. Mudd and Rev. Edward R. Dyer.*

Winifred's will was most interesting, note the name of her doctor. Dr. George Dyer Mudd was a first cousin to Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd who set the leg of John Wilkes Booth.(Abraham Lincoln's assassin) Not to get into the politics of the day, but it is a known fact in this area that, even though they were related, they did not share the same politics. Dr. Sam was known as a "hot head" and the locals say that Dr. George tried to calm his cousin down. And on a family note. Of the churches named in the will, Newport, Cobb Neck (now Cobb Island) and Pomfret are in Charles County. Phoenix Hall is a really old house that belonged to the Jameson family, it's still standing but just barely. It is located on Edelen Rd. in Bryantown.

<sup>xiii</sup> Mexico's Congress declared Los Angeles the capital of California in 1835, but the provincial governor refused to move south from San Francisco, so the city's relative isolation, and the local authority of its prosperous farmers and ranchers, remained unthreatened. By the 1840s, Los Angeles had become the largest settlement in Southern California, attracting its first party of American pioneers, led by William Workman and John Rowland, in 1841.

Los Angeles had been little affected by the revolution that replaced Spanish rule with that of an independent Mexican government in 1821. Mexico's Congress declared Los Angeles the capital of California in 1835, but the provincial governor refused to move south from San Francisco, so the city's relative isolation, and the local authority of its prosperous farmers and ranchers, remained unthreatened. By the 1840s, Los Angeles had become the largest settlement in Southern California, attracting its first party of American pioneers, led by William Workman and John Rowland, in 1841.

Mercian influence grew steadily thereafter, with the first English-language school and the first Protestant church arriving in 1850, the same year Los Angeles was officially incorporated and named the county seat. During the Gold Rush years in northern California, Los Angeles became known as the "Queen of the Cow Counties" for its role in supplying beef and other foodstuffs to hungry miners. The city also gained a reputation for violence, with a crime rate that approached a murder a day in the 1850's and 1860's.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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<sup>xiv</sup> The inscription of the limestone Celtic cross that marks Dennis Downey's (John G Downey's father) final resting place reads;

DENNIS DOWNEY  
BORN 1795 DIED 1837  
BRIDGET GATELY HIS WIFE  
BURIED IN AYSANTOWN  
CHARLES COUNTY MARYLAND USA  
ERECTED IN 1903 IN LOVING MEMORY  
BY THEIR CHILDREN IN CALIFORNIA.

**Note:** The only member of Denis Downey's immediate family still living in 1903 was Eleanor Downey Martin.

If John Downey visited his father's gravesite it would have been around 1885 when he embarked on an around the world journey following the death of his wife Maria.

On the backside of the Celtic cross is the following inscription.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF DENNIS DOWNEY  
WHO DIED DECEMBER 20TH 1796  
AGED 62 YEARS ERECTED BY HIS  
SON DENNIS

**Note:** Governor John Gately Downey's grandfather died a year after his son Dennis, Governor Downey's father, was born.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Dennis Downey, the governor's father, died the same year that daughter Annie was born, leaving his wife, Bridget Gately, a widow with an infant child for the second time.

Bridget Gately's first husband died before or about the same time that their youngest daughter Winifred Martin was born.

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### **Thumbnail sketch for Annie Downey.**

Annie Downey was born in the same year that her father died. (1837)

She was approximately eight years old when the great Irish famine began, 1845/1852.

Her brother, John Gately Downey, the seventh Governor of California, came to America in 1842. John came to California in 1849, and settled in Los Angeles, California in December, 1850.

Annie came to America with her mother Bridget Downey, her older brother Patrick, and sister Eleanor, in 1851.

They originally settled in Bryantown, Charles County, Maryland, where her two step-sisters, Winifred and Mary Martin, lived, and where they had a school's. *Mary's Institute, an Academy for Young Ladies*. Annie was 14 years old when she came to America.

She, along with her eldest brother Patrick, and her sister Eleanor, joined their brother John, in California, in 1856, when she was 19 years old. She studied at Notre Dame Academy in Santa Clara, before going back to the Los Angeles area where she taught school.

In 1860, her brother John Gately Downey (1827-1894) became the seventh Governor of California.

Annie was married to Peter Donahue (1822-1885) in San Gabriel Mission on August 6th. 1864, by Bishop Amat.

The witnesses were Thomas Nugent Cassneau and Maria Jesus Guirado de Downey. Peters first wife, Mary Jane Maguire, whom he married in 1852, died in childbirth. Peter and Mary Jane had four children, two of whom survived him, James Marvin (April 30, 1859- 1890 ) and Mary Ellen. In 1888, Mary Ellen married John Henry von Schroeder, becoming Baroness Von Schroeder.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Baroness Mary Ellen Donohue von Schroeder died on December 1925, at her home on the Baltic Sea.

1925. James Marvin married the daughter of Judge William T. Wallace,(1828-1909) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Annie and Peter had no children of their own. They lived in their mansion in “Happy Valley“, at 454 Bryant Street, San Francisco, most of their married lives.

Her husband preceded her in death on November 26, 1885. Peter’s will provided for both of his children.

Annie died in her home at 2112 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, California, on December 12, 1896.

Annie’s considerable estate went primarily to her older sister Eleanor Downey Martin. and Eleanor’s first born from her marriage to Walter Harvey, John Downey Harvey.

Annie Street in San Francisco was named for Annie Downey Donahue.

The city of Anaheim was also named for her.

A pair of life sized bronze busts of Peter and Annie Downey Donahue, executed by Rupert Schmidt in 1894, can be found at the Marin History Museum, 1125 B Street, San Rafael, California (415) 454-8538 <http://www.marinhistory.org/> They were previously displayed in the lobby of the headquarters of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) on Market Street, San Francisco, for many years. Peter Donahue, and his brother James Donahue, were the founders of PG&E. These busts were donated to the Marin Historical Museum, on May 4th 1976, by Mr. Paul Schweizer from Fremont CA.

Incidentally, Rupert Schmidt also did the bronze likeness of Governor Downey that’s mounted on his gravestone in Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California, around the same time.

NOTE; In her final will, Annie left busts to her step-daughter, Baroness Von Schroeder.

Excerpt from Annie Donahue’s will -1896. *“Baroness Von Schroeder mentioned by the testator as her stepdaughter, is to have the family busts and pictures*

<sup>xvi</sup> John was ten years old when his father died. His older brother Patrick was seventeen years old and presumably able to help his mother run the farm. In his own notes found at the Bancroft Library, John describes life then. “I went to school from my grandfathers house to an ordinary country school before the establishment of the national school system.” He goes on to say “As a boy I did every kind of work on the farm, in the hay field and plowing That was a good thing for me. It always made me satisfied wherever I went with what I got to eat. Porridge and milk were good enough for me”

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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### <sup>xvii</sup> **Stepsisters.**

When John arrived in Maryland to join his stepsisters, they enrolled him in a Latin School in Charles County Maryland, taught by John F Corcoran, in preparation for entry into the priesthood. John stayed in this school for about one year.

<sup>xviii</sup> John recalled later, “ I went to school there one year. It had been the idea of my sisters that I become a priest but the idea did not suit me. My experience in boyhood largely aided me in after life. The great men of this country (America) today with but a few exceptions are all self made. In my studies at school I always liked the Classics best, and did not take very well to mathematics. My ambition then was “broad acres” and stock”

<sup>xix</sup> “*After leaving school I began to learn the druggist business on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and E streets in Washington DC opposite the general post office. After I got disgusted with Washington and saw no chance there to get ahead went south and spent a year in Vicksburg*”. The beginning of this apprenticeship brought to an end John’s formal education.

<sup>xx</sup> Spent one year in Vicksburg before moving on to Cincinnati.

<sup>xxi</sup> Quoting from John Downey’s own notes “*From there (Vicksburg) I went to Cincinnati and was in business there three years on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup>. And Fremont Streets, with John Darling, an old Scotchman who was very kind to me and made me a full partner.*”

<sup>xxii</sup> Downey noted, “*In 1849 when the gold excitement broke out, I told him (John Darling) I would never be worth anything there and was bound to go west. He told me that it was the biggest bubble the world had known and would soon burst but I had confidences in it an was determined to go to California.*” Describing his journey to the Golden State, John recalls, “*I made the voyage via the Isthmus , spending some little time in New Orleans an Havana, enroute. Arriving in Panama the steamer West Point did not come and we feared she had been wrecked, and the American Consul there, Mr. Caldwell fitted up an old store ship called the Sarah, and we embarked on that, It took us 87 days to get to San Francisco.*”

<sup>xxiii</sup> California Constitutional convention.

<http://www.militarymuseum.org/Constitution.html>

<sup>xxiv</sup>

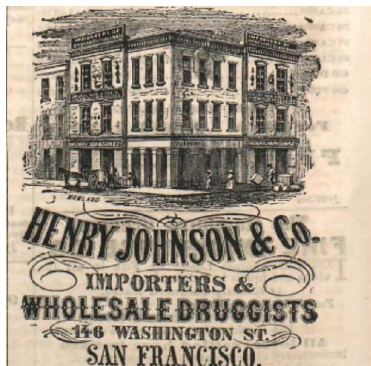
## State Capitals of California

|                                    |                                       |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">San Jose</a><br>1849   | <a href="#">Vallejo</a><br>1852       | <a href="#">Benicia</a><br>1853    |
| <a href="#">Sacramento</a><br>1854 | <a href="#">San Francisco</a><br>1862 | <a href="#">Sacramento</a><br>1869 |

SEARCH KEY TO THE CITY. Six different locations for the State Capitol.

xxv

*Arriving in San Francisco* after an 87-day journey from Vicksburg, he immediately found his way to the gold fields around Nevada City in the Sierra Nevada foothills. After a short try at prospecting he concluded that this work was not to his liking. John Downey returned to San Francisco where he found gainful employment with a wholesale druggist, Henry Johnson and Company, on Dupont Street. (Dupont Street has since been renamed and is known today as Grant Avenue. Grant Avenue is the main thoroughfare through today's Chinatown.) *"I went on to Sacramento, and from there to Marysville and the Grass Valley mining district. A short experience mining, in water up to my knees, and I told friends I had enough of mining. After reaching Sacramento from the mines I rolled barrels along the wharf for a time and made a little raise, and went on to San Francisco"*



In 1850 this county was represented in the State Senate by Dr. A. W. Hope; followed in 1851 and 1852 by Stephen C. Foster. The Senators since have been: 1853, 1854, James P. McFarland; 1855, 1856, Benjamin D. Wilson; 1857, 1858, Cameron E. Thom; 1859, 1860, Andrew Pico; 1861, 1862, John R. Vineyard; 1863, 1864, Henry Hamilton; 1865 until 1868, Phineas Banning; 1869 until 1872, B. D. Wilson; 1873 and now, C. W. Bush.

xxvi James Porter McFarland

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Born November 16th, 1820

Attended Medical school in Philadelphia

Came to California during the gold rush.

Twice elected to the California Senate

Became a partner with John Downey in the first pharmacy in Los Angeles December 1850.

Returned to Tennessee in 1859, where he married Jane Lansdale Cowan

They had seven children. Their first-born son was named John Downey McFarland

John Downey McFarland would become a doctor also, and would accompany John Downey on an around the world journey in the mid 1880's.

Shortly after returning from that journey doctor McFarland died. He was un-married.

James Porter McFarland had a great influence on John Gately Downey in his early years in California.

### <sup>xxvii</sup> ***Money Lending & Banking***

Banks, as we know them today, did not exist in San Francisco during this period. Ordinary people had to find moneylenders in order to secure loans for personal use. Money lending was a perfectly respectable practice then and it was also very lucrative. Interest rates were levied by the month and the rate of interest was arranged between the lender and the borrower. Typical rates were above 5% per month.

As soon as he earned some money, John Downey engaged in the practice of money lending. In a relatively short time he was able to spiral his bankroll into a sizeable account. When the opportunity to purchase a cargo of pharmaceutical compounds presented itself, John Downey was able to make the purchase using his entire bankroll, which Downey said was about \$1800.00. John agreed to purchase the cargo with the understanding that it would be delivered to San Pedro Harbor. Arriving at San Pedro, he hired wagon to haul his cargo inland to the town of Los Angeles. (See Harris Newmark's, *Sixty Years in Southern California*-pp68)

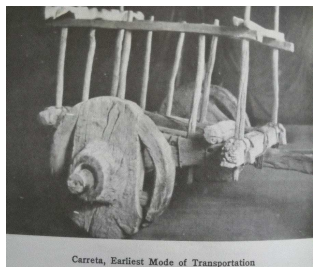
<sup>xxviii</sup> On December 9th. 1850, California was admitted into the union. It took twelve weeks for the news to reach Los Angeles. Coincidentally, John Downey arrived in Los Angeles as the news broke in the community.

*“The trip on the schooner took occupied three weeks and after landing in San Pedro “I walked up to the town to save ten dollars.”*

**Note:** Los Angeles was about twenty miles inland from the port of San Pedro then.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

Arriving in Los Angeles, Downey later wrote, “*Los Angeles was the most pock marked city you ever saw. But the country was lovely, the month was December and the flowers were in bloom, and the appearance of the whole county was beautiful. I made up my mind to stay here*”



Downey rented a *carreta* to transport his cargo of pharmaceutical products to Lo Angeles. The spoked wheel did not make its appearance in Los Angeles County until the mid-1850. The rubbing of the solid wooden wheel against the course wooden axel resulted in a loud squeaking noise.

Los Angeles County was one of the original 27 counties in California. As originally constituted, it encompassed an area in excess of twenty-seven thousand square miles. Subsequently, the state was divided into 58 counties. Los Angeles County was divided up and today covers an area of approximately 4075 square miles. There are 88 cities within to boundaries of LA County today.

Los Angeles 1850, Population 1610. In 1900 102,479

<sup>xxix</sup> While working in San Francisco, **John Downey met Dr. J P McFarland**, a southern gentleman from the state of Tennessee. It was Dr. McFarland who told John about the opportunities in the Southland and it was he who encouraged him to move there.

James Porter McFarland, Born November 16th, 1820 in the state of Tennessee. He attended medical school in Philadelphia before coming west to Los Angeles. He was twice elected to the California State Senate.

He returned to Tennessee in 1859, where he married Jane Lonsdale Cowan. They had seven children. Their first son was named John Downey McFarland in honor of his friend and former partner John Gately Downey.



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote



Downey and McFarland opened their drugstore at the end of 1850. *“We kept the business for three years and I had thirty thousand dollars. We had the only drug store between San Francisco and San Diego and they frequently sent up from Lower California for drugs ”*

<sup>xxx</sup> The Irish potato famine (1845-1852) occurred after John left Ireland. His remaining family lived through most of the devastation before coming to America. They experienced great difficulty and lost much of their land and stock holdings during the famine years. In a letter from his mother John learned that his uncle Sean Ruagh, and many of his school friends had died of hunger.

<sup>xxxi</sup>

### **WebRoots.org**

Nonprofit Library for Genealogy & History-Related Research

*A Free Resource Covering the United States and Some International Areas*

**Library - U.S. History - States - California**

See Page 33

<http://www.webroots.org/library/usahist/ca/roarsca1.html>

The author felt highly flattered at not only being permitted to breathe the same air, tread the same soil, but to actually live in the same town and to meet, pass and repass, on terms of absolute equality, such distinguished men as those referred to. The privilege was certainly a great one, and the author, as aforesaid, was prone to feel and appreciate it to its fullest extent. Many other parties who had killed their half- dozen were pointed out, but, save and except one, I think "Crooked Nose" and "Bob" were the most entitled to mention. The exception above noted was a native Californian, named Ricardo Urives, who, in manner and appearance, was the most perfect specimen of a desperado I ever beheld. Ricardo could stand more shooting and stabbing than the average bull or grizzly bear. I remember that on one lovely Sabbath afternoon, Ricardo got into a fight at the upper end of the Calle de los Negros, and was beset with a crowd fully intent on securing his scalp. He was attacked in front, rear and on each flank; he was shot, stabbed and

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

stoned; his clothes were literally cut from his body. Still he fought his way, revolver in one hand, bowie knife in the other, all the way past the old Coronel corner to Aliso and Los Angeles

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streets, where his horse was hitched. He quietly mounted, bare-headed, bleeding from at least a score of wounds. The crowd had fallen back into the narrow street, where lay some half-dozen bleeding victims to bear witness to the certainty of Ricardo's aim. The writer had witnessed the sanguinary and desperate affair from the up-stairs verandah of Captain Bell's residence, on the corner of Los Angeles and Aliso streets; and seeing that there were a multitude against one, felt greatly excited in favor of the one, and it was with a secret prayer of thanks that I saw the heroic fellow, who was so cut and carved that his own mother would have failed to recognize him, emerge from the crowded street, come to bay and drive his pursuers back. What then was my surprise to see him deliberately ride back to the place whence he had so miraculously escaped. It seemed that he had fired the last shot from his heavy Colt, for when he charged through the street he used his revolver as a war-club, and scattered and drove his enemies like sheep. He then rode off into what is now called Sonora and got his wounds bandaged up. It afterwards transpired that he had been shot three times in the body, and stabbed all over. He then put in a full hour riding up and down Main street in front of the Bella Union, daring any gringo officer to arrest him. None being bold enough to make the attempt, the gentle Ricardo took his quiet departure for the "Rancho de los Coyotes," then the property of his sister.

Ricardo was brave, an army of one hundred thousand of his likes would be invincible. But Ricardo's courage was that of the lion or the tiger, and like those barons of the brute creation, when brought face to face with moral as well as physical courage, the animal bravery of the desperado would quail.

**One day a quiet young gentleman** was passing through Nigger Alley, and found Don Ricardo on the war path. He was tormenting, berating and abusing every one who came in his way, and was particular in his abuse of a young Mexican, who seemed to be a stranger, and to be greatly frightened. The young gentleman stopped for a moment, and authoritatively ordered the domineering Don to desist. The astonishment of Ricardo was beyond description. He looked contemptuously at the young man for a minute, then quietly drawing his bowie started deliberately for him, when, in an instant, he was covered with a small revolver, and commanded to stop. "One more step," said the gringo, "and you are a dead man." With his eye he caught that of Ricardo, and gazed fixedly into his terrible, tiger-like orbs. Ricardo halted and commenced to threaten. "Put up that knife," said the young gringo. Ricardo flourished his knife and swore. "Stop that," said the gringo, with his eyes still riveted on those of the human hyena. The Don stopped. Then once more, "Put up that knife, or I will shoot you dead." Ricardo sheathed his bowie. "Vayasse," "Begone," said the gringo, and to the utter astonishment of the congregated crowd, Ricardo turned and slunk away. At this juncture Jim Barton, the Sheriff, with a party, arrived on the scene, and congratulated the victorious gringo on his achievement, and then and not until then, did the gentleman know of the desperate character of his antagonist. It was a fine example of moral and physical over mere brute courage. The young gringo referred to, then a stranger, afterward became Governor of the great State of California, and in discharge of the high trust confided to him, displayed the same degree of moral courage that first manifested itself in the motley crowd in Calle de Los Negros, and made the best Governor, possibly, our State

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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ever had. The young gringo and ex-Governor John G. Downey are one and the same.

<sup>xxxii</sup> *John Downey marries #Dona Maria Jesus Guirado*, the daughter of Don Rafael Guirado. John was 25 years old and Maria was 15 years old. When John Downey became Governor, Maria became the youngest first lady in the state's history, a fact that is still holds true today. They had no children.

Gov. John G Downey came to Los Angeles in December 1850. He married Miss Maria Jesus Guirado, of the city, February 10th. 1852. (San Gabriel Mission) His distinguished career belongs to the history of California.

### **Biography:** Raphiel Guirado family, (John Downey's father-in-law)

When a young man Raphiel Guirado emigrated from Spain to Mexico, and in 1833 crossed into the United States becoming a pioneer of Los Angeles. He soon became prominent, wielding a large influence among the Spanish and Mexican population of the city. His education and culture fitting him for leadership among men and it was but natural that he should have held a high rank among his fellow citizens

Maria Guirado was born into an influential California family. Her father, Don Rafael Guirado, moved from Guaymas, Mexico to Whittier, California in 1833. In 1852, Maria married John Downey, an Irish immigrant who made a fortune after starting a drugstore and bank in Los Angeles. He also founded the town of Downey. Maria was described as educated, beautiful, and refined. She felt that one of her duties, as First Lady was to help the more unfortunate. After John left office, he and Maria moved back to Los Angeles where they built a beautiful home at, 345 South Main Street.

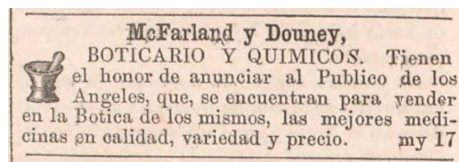
Maria Downey died tragically in a train accident in the Tehachapi Mountains on January 29, 1883.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Article above gives a thumbnail sketch for John Downey's father-in-law.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Jim Savage was the first white man to set foot in Yosemite Valley.

<sup>xxxv</sup>

This advertisement, written in Spanish, papered in the Los Angeles Star. Downey spoke fluent Spanish. He learned the language while in San Francisco. In 1850



Site of Los Angeles Star. State Historic Landmark 789. 300 Block of North Main

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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On May 17, 1851, newspaper publishing began in Los Angeles when the first issue of the *La Estrella de Los Angeles* was printed in a small two-story frame house fronting Los Angeles Street. The bilingual weekly paper had four 18" x 24" pages, two of which were in Spanish and two were in English. The newspaper moved the following year to the site on Main Street memorialized by the State of California plaque.

In 1852, the *Star* published a series of 22 articles written by Hugo Reid, a Scottish immigrant living in present day Baldwin Park. These articles, which are the most comprehensive and thorough ethnographic portrait of the Native Americans of Los Angeles County, exposed their plight at the twilight of their existence.

During the Civil War, the newspaper espoused succession and the Southern cause and finally in October, 1864, it ceased publishing. The printing press was sold to Phineas Banning, who used it to publish the *Wilmington Journal*. Later, the press was used to publish Orange County's first newspaper, the *Anaheim Gazette*.

In 1868, the *Star* began publishing again. During the 1870s, the *Star* went through a series of owners until 1879, when it went bankrupt and ceased publishing for good.

### <sup>xxxvi</sup> *#Elected Political Offices held by John G Downey*

Elected to Los Angeles common council 1852-

Elected County Supervisor 1855

Elected to the California Assembly 1856

Elected Lieutenant Governor 1859

Governor of California 1860-62

Elected County Supervisor 1866-67

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Rumors of a Pacific Republic (Republic of the Pacific) grew when the (Salem) *Oregon Statesman* published what the Democratic editor, Asahel Bush, called the plans for three American republics. Two were to be in the East, one northern free labor, and the other northern slave holding, and the other was to be in the Pacific West, with the issue of slavery to be decided. The Pacific Republic movement had been active in 1860 but died after the election in November. One of the enticements offered Governor Downey by pro secessionist advocates was the presidency of the Pacific Republic. **Note:** The Republic of the Pacific, as envisioned by Senator Gwen, his allies, and others before them, would have included California and the west from the Pacific Coast to the Great Divide in the Rocky Mountain range, and, up into British Columbia in western Canada.

Downey had two opportunities to make a fortune for himself early on. On each occasion he had political cover. The first was the Bulkhead Bill. The Both houses of the legislature had voted

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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for the Bill and he could have sold his signature and named his price. He opted instead to represent the best interest of the City of San Francisco and the State of California by vetoing the Bill.

When a decision had to be made relative to where California stood on the issue of the civil war, Downey again had political cover. Virtually every state wide elected official, including the California's US Senators and Congressmen, stood with the confederate States. He was a very principled man and made a principled decision knowing well that he could on the one hand, name his price, or instead, take a stand that it would surely end his political career. He made the principled decision to keep California in the United States of America.

What prepared this young farmer's son from Castlesampson in County Roscommon to act as he did?

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Under United States control after 1848, when the United States defeated Mexico in the Mexican-American war, the harbor was greatly improved and expanded under the guidance of Phineas Banning and John Gately Downey, the seventh governor of California. San Pedro has now become the largest port on the West Coast of the United States and the busiest port in the country

<sup>xxxix</sup> Terry would later kill Senator David Broderick in a duel at Lake Merced in San Francisco; and in so doing fired the first shot in the civil war that would erupt shortly thereafter. The final fallout from this event would propel John Downey into the governorship of the State .

<sup>xi</sup>

William Mulholland (September 11, 1855 – July 22, 1935) was the head of [Los Angeles Department of Water and Power](#), in Los Angeles. He was responsible for building the water [aqueducts](#) and dams that allowed the city to grow into one of the largest in the world. His methods of obtaining water for the city led to disputes collectively known as the [California Water Wars](#). He was born in Belfast.

<sup>xli</sup> The **Know Nothing** was a movement by the [nativist](#) American political faction of the 1850s, characterized by political [xenophobia](#), anti-[Catholic](#) sentiment, and occasional bouts of violence against the groups the nativists targeted. It was empowered by popular fears that the country was being overwhelmed by [German](#) and [Irish Catholic](#) immigrants, who were often regarded as hostile to [republican values](#) and controlled by the [Pope](#) in Rome. Mainly active from 1854 to 1856, it strove to curb immigration and [naturalization](#), though its efforts met with little success. Membership was limited to Protestant males of [British American](#) lineage. There were few prominent leaders, and the largely middle-class and entirely Protestant membership fragmented over the issue of [slavery](#).

Nativists had become active in politics in New York in 1843 as the [American Republican Party](#). It spread to nearby states as the **Native American Party** (which appealed to native-born white citizens) and won a few thousand votes in 1844. Historian Tyler Anbinder warns, however, that the "Native American" party should not be confused with the Know-Nothings because the two different groups ran separate tickets in the same elections in the 1850s

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Know\\_Nothing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Know_Nothing)

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The rise of the Know Nothing Party in California was the impetus for John Downey entering statewide politics

<sup>xlii</sup> Patrick, Eleanor and Annie Downey arrive in San Francisco from Maryland on the same day as the funeral for the murdered editor of the Call Bulletin newspaper, James King of William. From San Francisco they traveled to Los Angeles by schooner. Ocean going ships did not call on Los Angeles during this period. Its only port, San Pedro could not yet accommodate ships with a deeper draught. The Overland Stage did not reach Los Angeles until 1858.

May 22, 1856

Funeral services for James King of William at the Unitarian Church on Stockton St. and burial took place at Lone Mountain Cemetery. 20,000 people gathered at the Committee of Vigilance rooms on Sacramento St. to watch the hanging of Cora and Casey. Archbishop Alemany visited both men just before they [were hanged at 1:20 p.m.](#)

*Eleanor* was born in Castlesampson in September 1828. She passed away on July 6, 1928, at the age of 100 years. She ruled San Francisco society where she was known as the “Czarina”, for almost six decades, and entertained three US Presidents, William H Taft, Teddy Roosevelt and William McKinley, in her palatial home at 2040 Broadway.

*Anna* (also known as Annie) married San Francisco industrialist Peter Donahue, at San Gabriel Mission on August 6th, 1864. She was twenty-seven years old. Peter was one of the remarkable Donahue brothers who, among other accomplishments, founded Pacific Gas and Electric Co., as well as the first iron foundry on the West Coast. Peter becomes known as the Father of California Industry.

The City of Anaheim (German for Anna’s home) was named for Anna Downey.

Anna died in 1896, eleven years after Peter, at the age of 60.

The Downey sisters and the Donahue brothers were among the principle contributors to the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco. They contributed generously to the construction of the cathedral and to various parish-building projects. When the Archbishop of San Francisco was directed to build a seminary, it was to these generous benefactors that he again turned.

<sup>xliii</sup> Subsequently, the state was divided into 58 counties. Los Angeles County was divided and today covers an area of approximately 4075 square miles. There are 88 cities within to boundaries of LA County today

Note: In 1850 Los Angeles County comprised 37,000 square miles. Later part of Kern County (5000) all of San Bernardino (24,000) county, Orange (2000) and Riverside (2000) counties were carved out of that original LA

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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County. Today Los Angeles County of slightly over four thousand sq. miles (4075 sq. miles) Ireland covers an area of approximately 32,000 square miles

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### **APPENDIX B. STATEMENT OF JASPER O'FARRELL CONCERNING THE DEATHS OF JOSÉ R. BERRYESSA AND THE DE HARO TWINS**

(Los Angeles Star, September 27, 1856)

I was at San Rafael in June 1846 when the then Captain Frémont arrived at that Mission with his troops. The second day after his arrival there was a boat landed three men at the mouth of the estero on Point San Pedro. As soon as they were descried by Frémont there were three men (of whom Kit Carson was one) detailed to meet them. They mounted their horses and after advancing about one hundred yards halted and Carson returned to where Frémont was standing on the corridor of the Mission, in company with Gillespie, myself, and others, and said: "Captain, shall I take these men prisoners?" In response Frémont waved his hand and said: "I have got no room for prisoners." They then advanced to within fifty yards of the three unfortunate and unarmed Californians, alighted from their horses, and deliberately shot them. One of them was an old and respected Californian, Don José R. Berreyesa, whose son was the Alcalde of Sonoma. The two others were twin brothers and sons of Don Francisco de Haro, a citizen of the Pueblo of Yerba Buena. I saw Carson some two years ago and spoke to him of this act and he assured me that then and since he regretted to be compelled to shoot those men, but Frémont was bloodthirsty enough to order otherwise, and he further remarked that it was not the only brutal act he was compelled to commit while under his command.

I should not have taken the trouble of making this public but that the veracity of a pamphlet published by C. E. Pickett, Esq., in which he mentions the circumstance has been questioned—a history which I am compelled to say is, alas, too true—and from having seen a circular addressed to the native Californians by Frémont, or some of his friends, calling on them to rally to his support, I therefore give the above act publicity, so as to exhibit some of that warrior's tender mercies and chivalrous exploits, and must say that I feel degraded in soiling paper with the name of a man whom, for that act, I must always look upon with contempt and consider as a murderer and a coward.

JASPER O'FARRELL.

Note: Jasper O'Farrell's integrity and credibility were unimpeachable, and as a consequence, the above signed affidavit testifying to the facts stated therein, effective ended Freemont's political aspirations. He was born in Longford, and educate in Dublin

<sup>xlv</sup> In 1858 Senator James Henry Hammond of South Carolina replied to Senator William H. Seward of New York:

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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"Without the firing of a gun, without drawing a sword, should they [Northerners] make war upon us [Southerners], we could bring the whole world to our feet. What would happen if no cotton was furnished for three years? . . . England would topple headlong and carry the whole civilized world with her. No, you dare not make war on cotton! No power on earth dares make war upon it. Cotton is King."

xlvi

**NO. 656 BELLA UNION HOTEL SITE** - Near this spot stood the Bella Union Hotel, long a social and political center. Here, on October 7, 1858, the first Butterfield Overland Mail stage from the east arrived 21 days after leaving St. Louis. Warren Hall was the driver, and Waterman Ormsby, a reporter, the only through passenger.

**Location:**

xlvii *Eleanor Downey Marries*

Major Walter Harris #Harvey, a native of Georgia, once a cadet at West Point, but dismissed for his pranks who in 1858, married Eleanor, eldest full sister of John G. Downey, and became the father of J. Downey Harvey, came to California shortly after the Mexican War.

After Major Harvey's death at Los Angeles in 1867, at the age of forty-seven years, she married Edward Martin who was born, 1819 in Enniscorthy County Wexford, Ireland. They were married in San Gabriel mission on May 13, 1869. Martin settled in California in 1848. . Mr. Martin was the co-founder of Hibernia Savings and Loan, and First National Bank. He also had a real estate business and a prosperous lacquer importing business. He was also one of California's original oilmen. One of his oil fields around Stern Ranch was called the Eleanor field. Mr. Martin became one of the wealthiest men on the West Coast. His land holdings alone comprised some 800,000 acres in California and Oregon.

xlviii Discovery of silver in Virginia City Nevada had the effect of bringing the California mining industry to a near standstill. The consequence of this was that California was thrown into a financial depression. This is the situation that Governor Downey inherits when he takes office.

45

Born in [Reckendorf, Bavaria](#), Hellman and his brother Herman W. arrived in the [Los Angeles, California](#) on May 14, 1859 to join their cousins. Hellman went to work as a clerk in his cousins' dry goods store. He opened his own dry goods store in April 1865.

<sup>1</sup> *Rancho Santa Gertrude*

John Gately Downey, an Irish immigrant who had come to California during the Gold Rush, succeeded to Governor of California. He helped build the economic foundation of Southern



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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California, effecting a transition from open cattle range to an agricultural district of small farms. In November 1859, Downey and his former drugstore partner, James McFarland, bought the 17,602 acre #Rancho Santa Gertrudes for a mere \$60,000. In 1873, a 96-acre parcel of the plot became the central district of a community called "Downey City," an area with a favorable climate, fertile soil and abundant water sources.

James Porter MacFarland.

Born November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1820.

Attended Medical school in Philadelphia,

Came to California during the gold rush in 1849.

Twice elected the California Senate

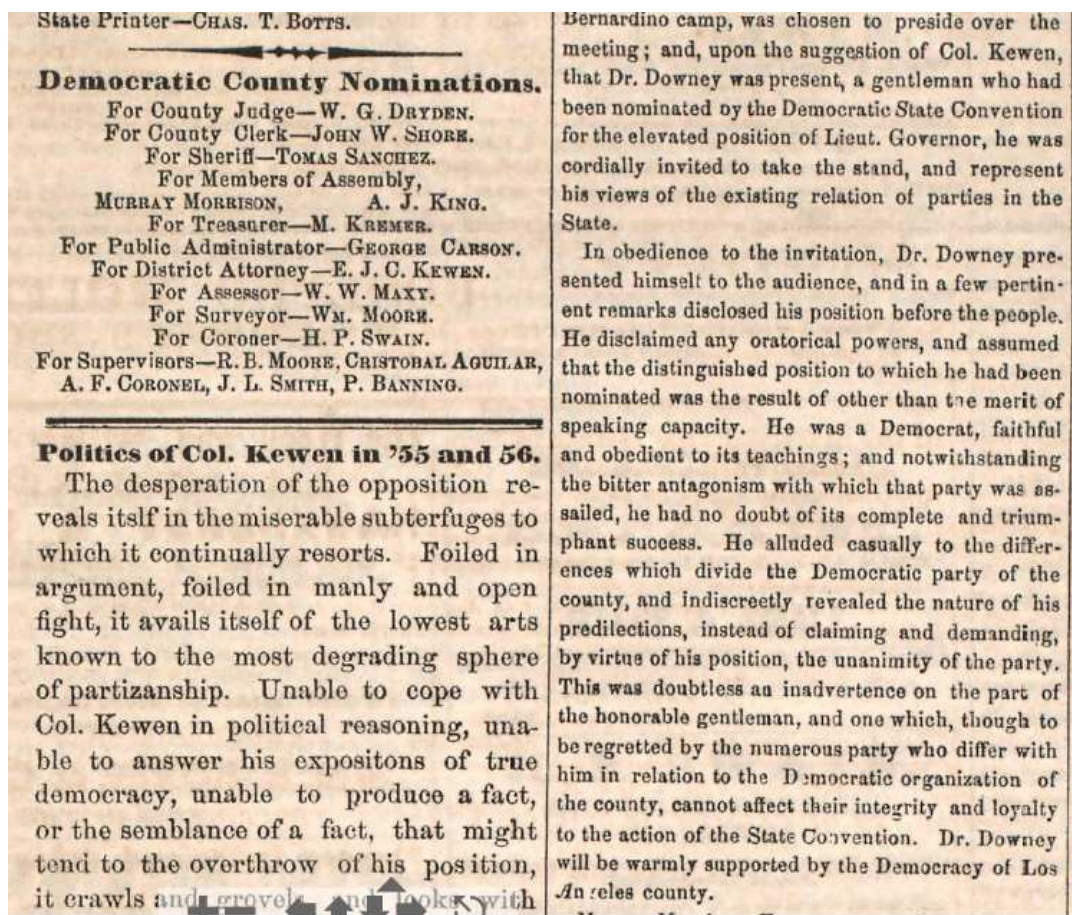
Became a partner with John Gately Downey in the first pharmacy in Los Angeles in 1850

Returned to Tennessee in 1859, where he married Jane Lonsdale Cowan.  
They had seven children. His first son was named John Downey

Served in the California Senate.

li

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote



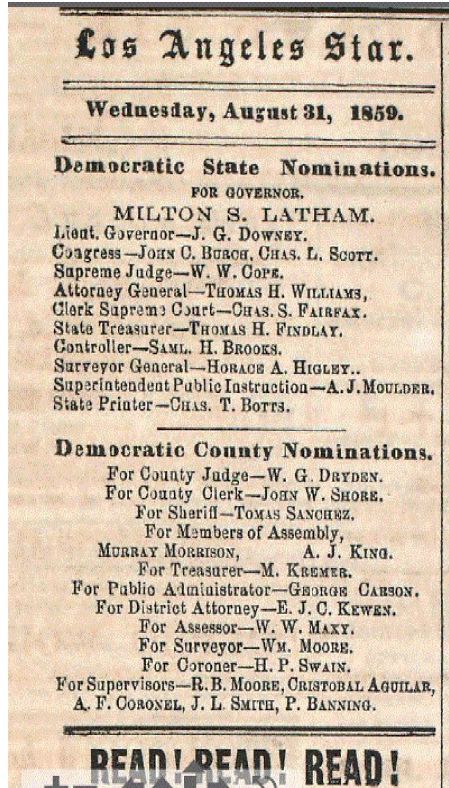
April 4, 1850: The City of Los Angeles is incorporated. The population at this time is 1,610.

<sup>lii</sup> John Downey attended, as a representative of the Los Angeles Democratic delegation, which, as a block, was on the Lecompton side of the aisle. His old friend US Senator David Broderick was not pleased to see him on the other side of the aisle. Los Angeles and Southern California was heavily populated by Southerners, and their sympathies were clearly for the confederacy. John Downey was selected to run as a running mate with Milton Slocum Latham (May 23, 1827 – March 4, 1882) to balance the ticket; Downey was from southern California, and to appeal to the Irish and Catholic voters. Thirty percent of the registered electorate were Irish at the time. They were successful in defeating the republican nominees, Stanford and Kennedy.

Latham was an important Californian. He served as a U.S. Representative from 1853 to 1855. In 1859 he was elected Governor of California but only served 5 days because California Senator David Broderick was killed and Latham was chosen to take his place. It is also noteworthy that Latham was a southern Democrat and, prior to the Civil War, advocated California secede from the Union and form an independent Pacific Republic. Latham lost his fortune in the Depression of 1875. He sold the estate in 1883 and moved to New York.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

John G Downey the first of only two Irish born governors in US history, the other James Michael Curley, from Oughterard, Co Galway. Gov of Mass, 1935 to 1937. Movie The Last Harrah, Spencer Tracy



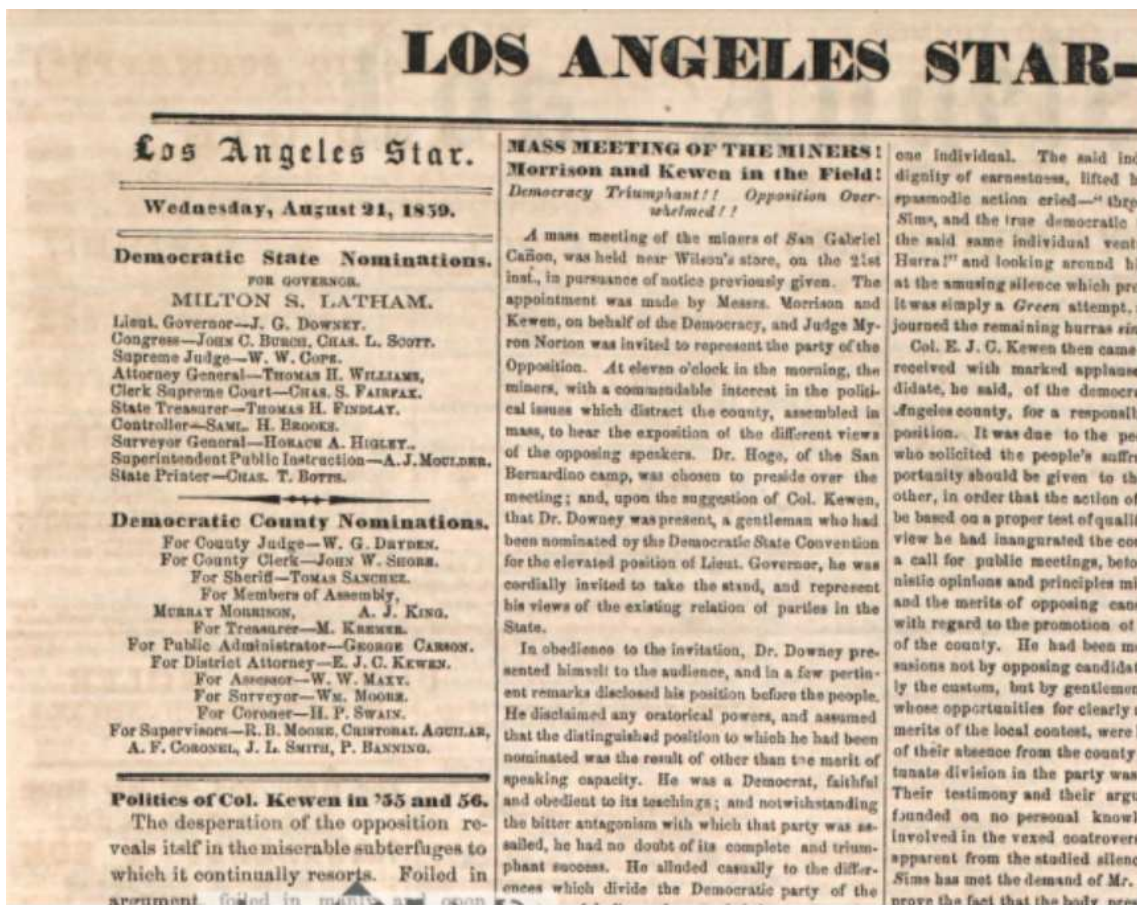
On September 7, 1859, Latham was elected governor. Five days after his inauguration on January 9, 1860, Latham was selected to fill the vacancy of U.S. Senator David C. Broderick, who had been killed in a duel

<sup>liii</sup> In 1859 silver is discovered in Virginia City in Nevada Territory. The find is the greatest discovery of precious metal in history, and results in a rush by miners from the California gold mines to Nevada Territory. This had the effect of bringing the California mining industry to a near standstill. The consequence of this was that California was thrown into a financial depression. This is the situation that Governor Downey inherits when he takes office.

Downey attempted to annex Nevada Territory into California.

<sup>liv</sup>

Excerpt from the Los Angeles Star Newspaper August 21, 1859.



<sup>lv</sup> The David Terry David Broderick duel was in effect the first shot fired in the American civil war. Senator Broderick died as a result of his wounds three days later. Broderick supported the “free soil”, anti-secessionist faction of the Democratic Party; and was a Douglas supporter in the upcoming presidential election. Justice Terry was a member of the “chivalry” faction of the Democratic Party, an advocate of succession, and a strong supporter of John Breckenridge, his party’s pro slavery secessionist candidate. Broderick’s death would ultimately lead to John Downey becoming the seventh governor of the State of California. The repercussion of the outcome of this duel would reverberate through California, the United States of America, and the entire world to the present day.

The “chivalry”, led by California’s other US Senator, William Gwen and Justice Terry desperately wanted to silence Senator Broderick’s anti session voice, and used the duel as a way to legitimize their intentions. The unintended consequence of their actions would set in motion a chain of events that brought about an end result that was the direct opposite to what they had set out to achieve. Their primary goal was to insure that California would come into the civil war on the side to the southern states with all the predictable and desirable consequence that would benefit their cause. What they didn’t foresee however was that one of their own, Milton Latham, would seize on the opportunity to become a US Senator when it presented itself, and thereby

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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leave the governorship of the State of California in the hands of the young Irish Catholic Lieutenant governor, John Downey. As it turned out it was Governor Downey's decision to back the Republican President, Abraham Lincoln and preserve the Union that tipped the balance and preserved the map of the United States as we know it today.

Broderick's death would ultimately lead to John Downey becoming the seventh governor of the State of California. The repercussion from the outcome of this duel would reverberate through California, the United States of America, and the entire world from that day on and would ultimately determine who prevailed in the ultimate conflict.

Downey himself acknowledged that after Broderick's death, Latham expresses his intention to appoint himself to fill the vacancy in the US Senate. They agreed that he would be sworn in a governor right away.

When confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, a fort in the harbor of Charleston, in South Carolina, on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1861, it signaled the beginning of the American civil war. This action would have repercussions that would consume generation of Americans to the present day. In California it also meant that a decision had to be made regarding California's involvement in the war in the very near future. That burden for making that decision would fall to the young Irish born governor, John Gately Downey. He and he alone with make this call. There was no provision in the state constitution for legislative involvement, and nothing in the constitution of the United States of America to address this type of situation at the federal level. It was up to the sitting governor to decide.

The Governor's decision was the most difficult and important decision ever made by any California governor in the history of the state. It eclipsed decisions made by all of his processors, and, by all of his successors. It would have a long term effects that would shape the state and the nation to the present day.

Downey himself acknowledged that after Broderick's death, Latham intended to become US Senator if he and Downey won the gubernatorial election.

1859 Sep 13, David C. Broderick, a US Senator, faced David S. Terry, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, in a duel at Lake Merced. Broderick was hit in the chest and died after 60 hours. Terry fled the scene and resigned his position the next day. He was charged with murder and was arrested Sep 23, but was not convicted. The weapons used were a pair of Belgian .58-caliber pistols on loan from an associate of Terry. Broderick's weapon was set with a hair-trigger, and misfired. The pistols sold at auction in 1998 for \$34,500.

(PI, 5/30/98, p.5A)(SFC, 11/25/98, p.B8)(Ind, 5/12/01, 5A)

<sup>lvi</sup> With the prospect of civil war braking out over the issue of succession, Californians elected a known secessionist, in the person of Milton Latham, to the governorship of the state. Latham

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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however, felt that being a United States Senator was a more prestigious position, so he appointed himself to fill the post left vacant by the death of Senator Broderick. Had Latham served out his elected term as governor, California would have entered the civil war on the side of the Confederate States. Instead, his egotistical choice left the governorship in the hands of John G Downey, who chose instead to put the State in Lincoln's column. California Democrats badly underestimated to independence and determination of the young Irish governor.

lvii *Sworn in as the Seventh Governor of California* on January 14, 1860, and the first ever governor from Southern California. He was also the first foreign-born governor of the State. This distinction held up until 2003, when Austrian Arnold Schwarzenegger, was elected to the Governor's office in a recall election.

It fell to John Downey to make *the* most difficult and the most important decision that any governor in the history of the state of California has ever had to make.

The outcome of the civil war would be heavily influenced by what he decided. The map of the United States would be shaped or reshaped, based on what he decided, and the ambitions of powerful forces both inside and outside of the United States would be heavily impacted by what he ultimately chose to do.

*Unfortunately, for the Chivalry, John Gately Downey would prove not to be an ally of their treasonous, Confederate aspirations, but rather he would become their bane.*

*On January 11<sup>th</sup>, John Downey, at the age of thirty-two, became Governor of California. Downey, with his twenty-one year old wife, became the first Irish-born governor to be elected in America and the only foreign-born governor of California.*

*During the five days that Latham had been Governor, he had already displayed his treasonous inclinations by promoting a bill in the legislature to divide California into two parts, an idea that the modern day Confederate soul-mates of California still promote. Downey killed this bill by having it blocked in the senate.*

lviii

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY: — In entering upon the discharge of the responsible duties of the office of Chief Magistrate of the State, which have devolved upon me under the provisions of the Constitution, in consequence of the resignation of the Governor, I am painfully conscious of the want of that experience which is so necessary to a proper administration of the affairs of the Executive Department of the Government.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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I should indeed hesitate to take upon myself the discharge of these duties, did I not rely with confidence upon your appreciation of the difficulties of my position, and your indulgent judgment upon my acts.

I can only give to you, gentlemen, and through you to the people of the State, the assurance, that the affairs of the government shall be administered with a rigid and just economy, and to the best of my abilities, with a due regard to the varied interests of the State.

The general policy which I propose to pursue is plainly and admirably indicated in the Inaugural Address of Governor Latham, and I hope that I shall be able so to discharge the trusts I have this day assumed as to receive your approbation, and that of our common constituency.

*Unfortunately, for the Chivalry, John Gately Downey would prove not to be an ally of their treasonous, Confederate aspirations, but rather he would become their bane.*

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San Francisco was the state capitol during the Downey administration.

<sup>lix</sup> *The First #Pony Express* from St. Joseph Missouri brought a message of congratulation from President Buchanan to Governor Downey of California, which was first telegraphed to the Missouri River town. It also brought one or two official government communications, some New York, Chicago, and St. Louis newspapers, a few bank drafts, and some business letters addressed to banks and commercial houses in San Francisco - about eighty-five pieces of mail in all.

### Pony Express

The Legislature adjourned in honor of the event, while the streets were draped with banners, ladies thronged the balconies, and crowds blocked up the sidewalks along the streets where the pony was expected to pass. As he came galloping along followed by a wild cavalcade of men,

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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who had gone out on the Plains to meet him, the city echoed with the ringing of bells, booming of cannons, and the long-continued shouts of the multitude. [87]

<http://nps.gov/archive/poex/hrs/hrs2ehtm>

### **The Irish connection to the first cross continental delivery of mail:**

President Buchanan was of Irish origin. Governor John Downey was Irish. The pony express completed its journey from Sacramento to San Francisco aboard *The Antelope*, a ferryboat owned and operated by Peter Donahue, John Downey's brother-in-law and an Irishman

Other interesting Irish connections to the west during this period.

Eugene Casserly from Mullingar Co. Westmeath, US Senator from California.

John Conness from Portumna Co. Galway, US senator from California.

Frank McCoppin from Longford, mayor of San Francisco, the first Irish born catholic, major of a major American city

The Irish immigrant experience in the American West during this time was very different than that on the East Coast. This was particularly notable in the Southwestern states and especially in California, which had been settled originally by the Spanish (1756-1821) and then governed by the Mexico, (1821-1846). As a result, the Catholic Church was very influential in everyday life, and being a Catholics was a real advantage. Irish Catholics as a result fit seamlessly into this environment and they prospered as a result.

<sup>lix</sup> At about midnight or 1:00a.m., on April 14 1860, the Pony Express from St. Joseph reached San Francisco via Sacramento and the steamboat *Antelope*. Prior to its arrival, at "every man's dinner table, men, women and children talked *pony*," the crowds getting out their watches to calculate and speculate the Pont Express rate per mile [88] Upon its arrival in San Francisco, the pony rider was escorted from the steamer to the heart of the city where "a great throng roared an enthusiastic welcome, the band played "See the Conquering Comes' bonfires were lighted, speechmakers 'studied their points' and a riotous celebration continued until nearly morning

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## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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<http://nps.gov/archive/poex/hrs/hrs2ehtm>

### <sup>lxi</sup> **#Bullhead Bill.**

John Gately Downey (1827-1894) from Castlesampson, County Roscommon, was sworn in as the seventh Governor of California on January 14, 1860. He was thirty-two years old. During the first legislative session of his administration a group of well connected but unscrupulous business men from the City of San Francisco set about getting a piece of legislation through the State Assembly and the State Senate that would effectively give them full control over the port of San Francisco. At that time San Francisco was home to the busiest port on the Pacific Coast of The United States of America. Through manipulation and bribery and through outright corruption, this group succeeded in getting their legislation, known as the Bulkhead Bill, through both houses of the legislature. All that was needed for this legislation to become law was the Governors signature. When the sponsor of the legislation, Levi Parsons, came to the Governors office to demand his signature on the Bill, Governor Downey informed him that he intended to veto it. Stunned by this rebuke, Parsons reputedly said, "I'd walk around the world once for a friend but I'd walk around it twice for an enemy" to which Governor Downey was reported to have responded, "I'm a busy man Mr. Parsons, and it appears that you have a long journey to undertake"

By killing the Legislation with his veto, John Downey won the gratitude and the admiration of the people of the City and County of San Francisco, as well as the gratitude of people throughout the State. By making tough and principled stand against the power brokers in the legislature the young Governor sent a powerful message that he was a principled and ethical man that would not bow to bribery, corruption or petty politics. This event established his reputation and it become the benchmark for his tenure in the office of Governor.

**Bulkhead Bill of 1860;** the S. F. Dock and Wharf Co., to which this famous bill, vetoed by Gov. Downey, proposed to practically give away the City water front, was composed of Dr. H. S. Gates, J. Mora Moss, John Nightingale, Abel Guy, John B. Felton, John Crane, and Levi Parsons; the bill was vetoed April 17, 1860; the Governor arriving from the Capital, was publicly received by a torchlight procession, pyrotechnic display, and salvos of artillery, May 1, 1860

It was the inflexible honesty of Governor Downey that prevented a band of corruptionists from looting the treasury and stealing from San Francisco her waterfront. He promptly vetoed the "Bulkhead" bill that would have plundered the commerce of the port, routing every sign of corruption wherever he got a chance to deal it a killing blow. So delighted were the people that the supervisors of San Francisco adopted resolutions of confidence and respect, paying a high tribute to the honesty and ability of their governor. Prominent citizens and leading merchants presented the governor with resolutions that praised him in the highest terms for his unswerving fidelity to duty in the hour of trial. When the governor arrived in San Francisco soon after his

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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famous veto the entire population was at the ferry to meet and salute him. When he arrived the cheering was thunderous. His carriage awaited him, but the crowd unhitched the horses and drew the carriage in triumph through the streets of the city. Never in the history of California has there since been, nor had there been before, so tumultuous a tribute to manly worth and fidelity to duty. (from 1905 Biography)

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Levi Parsons and associates said the City *could* not and the State *should* and *would* not develop San Francisco's waterfront. He said the only way this could be accomplished was for private interests to take over and waged a four-year-long battle. San Franciscans felt the scheme was a gigantic swindle, however the bill passed the Senate on April 4, 1860, went through the Assembly, and was only stopped because Governor Downey studied the bill:

"After giving this bill the most careful consideration in all its details, I am led to the irresistible conclusion that its provisions are not only in conflict with the Constitution and the principles of natural justice, but that the measure, as a whole, is calculated to work irreparable injury to our commerce, internal and external, of which San Francisco is, and must ever remain, the metropolis . . . no greater injury could be inflicted upon the State than to expose her commerce to the domination of such an establishment" as the San Francisco Dock and Wharf Company, Parsons, Felton, et al.

Parsons and cronies made a desperate attempt to get the Senate to override the veto, but this failed.

The Chivalry began to realize the mistake they had made with their choice for Lt. Governor when, on April 16, 1861, Downey vetoed their notorious Bulkhead Bill. The bill, which would have created a private monopoly to control the waterfront of San Francisco, granting the San Francisco Dock Company the right to construct a sea wall (otherwise know as a bulkhead) and wharves. It would also give the company the authority to collect, own, and franchise property and wharves belonging to the city or private concerns. The Bulkheaders had played a major role in promoting Latham into the U.S. Senate, and had sent Levi Parsons, their lobbyist, to meet Downey. Downey told Levi his position, in no uncertain terms: "My conscience is not for sale. This bill, and you know it, would only serve to bulge the pockets of bulkheaders at the expense of the people of San Francisco. Go back to the gangsters now, and tell them that this governor cannot be bought." In honor of the Governor's veto, the people of San Francisco organized a

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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huge, all-night celebration for Downey. Church bells rang, people sang in the streets, and a torch light procession led him and his wife Maria through the town with much jubilation.

Letters of congratulations poured into the governors office from all over the State but one was particularly noteworthy. #Fellow Irishman Eugene Casserly from the Irish midlands like Downey, wrote a particularly moving letter. Casserly would later represent the State of California in the US Senate. Eugene Casserly was also a ##delegate to this convention and it was he who insisted on the inclusion of a clause that prohibited the State Government from taking on excess debt without a vote of the people.

The Bulkhead Bill of 1860; the S. F. Dock and Wharf Co., to which this famous bill, vetoed by Gov. Downey, proposed to practically give away the City water front, was composed of Dr. H. S. Gates, J. Mora Moss, John Nightingale, Abel Guy, John B. Felton, John Crane, and Levi Parsons; the bill was vetoed April 17, 1860; the Governor arriving from the Capital, was publicly received by a torchlight procession, pyrotechnic display, and salvos of artillery, May 1, 1860

<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/history/hbabs1.htm>

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<http://www.gloversvillelibrary.org/leviparsons.html>

### JUDGE LEVI PARSONS

Levi Parsons attended the Kingsboro Academy (currently the Fulton County Musuem) in his youth and intended to enter Union College, but for some reason he abandoned the plan. In 1844 he began to study law in the office of Judge George Yost in Johnstown. Judge Parsons was admitted to the bar in 1847 and practiced his profession for a short time in Little Falls.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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After the discovery of gold in California, he moved there in 1849. He entered San Francisco with \$8.50 in his pocket and started digging for gold. His career as a miner was brief. Returning to the city of San Francisco, he joined a group of men who founded the Whig party. He practiced law and in 1850 was appointed the first judge of the Supreme Court in San Francisco.

<http://www.kansastowns.us/parson.html>

### Parsons, Kansas History

Parsons, located in Labette County, was named after Judge Levi Parsons, promoter and president of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, commonly called the KATY. Parsons was incorporated in 1871 and lies just east of Independence.

Not far from Parsons is "Bender Mounds". The infamous Bender family lived near here in the 1870's. The Benders occasionally invited travelers to their home for dinner. The visitors were then murdered and robbed of their valuables

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_Mora\\_Moss\\_House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Mora_Moss_House)

### J. Mora Moss

Joseph Moravia Moss was born in Philadelphia in 1809 and came to San Francisco, California in 1850 or 1854 to work as a clerk in a bank. From there he built a fortune in banking, ice and fur importing, canal and railroad building and telegraph and gas utilities. It was his wish to retire away from the city's hustle and bustle. Moss acquired a large parcel of land outside of Oakland's downtown, and he commissioned S. H. Williams on February 29, 1864 to design a two-story home on the property for US\$14,500 plus building materials supplied by Moss. Williams, who referred to the design as a 'Gothic Cottage', contracted Joseph F. Heston to construct the building, but Heston defaulted on December 8, 1864. Moss finished the construction with his own builders guided by S. H. Williams. No records exist tallying the total cost of building the home.

Moss, a longtime bachelor, married his housekeeper, Julia Theresa Wood, in 1867. They named the estate "Mosswood", a concatenation of their two surnames.

Moss served as president of the Board of Trustees of the California State Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. In 1868, Moss was elected Honorary Regent to the first Board of Regents of the University of California and was appointed regent in 1874[3] at which post he served until his death at Mosswood on November 21, 1880.[4]

Julia Wood Moss retained title to Mosswood after her husband's death. In the early 1890s, she supervised additions to the home. A single story study was constructed and modifications to the

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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library were carried out. A large east-by-southeast-facing bay window dormer was added to the master bedroom over the drawing room. Mrs. Moss died childless in 1904 while vacationing in Europe.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_B.\\_Felton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_B._Felton)

John B. Felton

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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John Brooks Felton

John Brooks Felton, c. 1854 by Stephen W. Shaw 14th Mayor of Oakland, California In office March 1, 1869 – March 5, 1870

John Brooks Felton [1] (born 1827 in Saugus, Massachusetts, died May 2, 1877 in Oakland, California) was an American jurist and politician who served as the 14th Mayor of Oakland, California).

Felton was the son of an almshouse superintendent in Cambridge, Massachusetts and brother of Cornelius Conway Felton, a classics scholar at Harvard University and Samuel Morse Felton, Sr., a railroad executive. He graduated from Harvard in 1847 and briefly served as a Greek tutor before pursuing the law. He studied the Napoleonic code in Paris for one year and became fluent in both French and Spanish. In 1854, Felton moved to San Francisco to open a law practice with Harvard classmate, E.J. Pringle. The firm, which was later joined by A. C. Whitcomb, was successful in litigating land claims and their clients included Kelsey Hazen, José Yves Limantour, and James Lick [2] Future Congressman Binger Hermann apprenticed under Felton before moving to Oregon. [3] Felton was a legal advisor to Levi Parsons of the San Francisco Dock and Wharf Company during Parsons' attempt to have the "Bulkhead Bill" passed. [4]

Felton campaigned unsuccessfully for a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1867[5] and 1874. [6] He was Mayor of Oakland from 1869-1870 and a Presidential Elector for California during the 1868, 1872, and 1876 Presidential Elections. [7]

Felton was the first President of the Board of Trustees of Toland Medical College (Now University of California, San Francisco) and was responsible obtaining the school's charter, which he failed to do. [8] He was a regent of the University of California from its inception in 1868 until his death. [9] Felton also served as the President of the San Francisco and Oakland Railroad.

<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/77spring/california.htm>

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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A book of this length and format cannot be comprehensive. But a conceptual organization would have presented Lavender's main ideas more forcefully. For example, in different chapters the author devotes considerable attention to the growth of monopolies in California, an important theme. He discusses some monopolies that will be unfamiliar to most readers, including Judge Levi "Bulkhead" Parsons' stranglehold over the warehouses and docks along San Francisco's harbor during the late 1850s. The battle to control the port-and indirectly much of California's trade-pitted Parsons' corporation against merchants in the state's interior counties as well as the citizens and government of San Francisco. This conflict ultimately led to creation of a state board of harbor commissioners and symbolizes the struggle between private enterprise and public control so common in the 19th century American West. But transportation monopolies were important for many other reasons as well. Sixty pages later, Lavender returns to this theme in an excellent discussion of how improved techniques of transportation and manufacturing contributed to California's unstable economy. Monopoly, "trade agreements" and the use of cheap immigrant labor-particularly the Chinese and Japanese-helped to mitigate the effects of "industrial warfare." Combinations like the California Fruit Growers Exchange were just as important as the better known railroad monopoly and they were part of an organizational revolution that culminated in the growth of labor unions and new political parties.

The careful general reader will learn much from Lavender's book. But the historian will regret that the author's obvious talent was not better used by the publishers

Two disgraceful measures had passed both Houses of the Legislature through bribery of a majority of their members. The "*Horace Smith Change of Venue Bill*" and the "*Bulkhead Bill*." Both these bills were vetoed by Gov. Downey, when, if he went with the current of a corrupt popular Assembly, he could have put millions into his purse.

The Governor, with a sternness truly Catonian, refused all the overtures of corruption, and imprinted the indelible stigma of his *veto* on the enactments of a bribed Legislature. One Smith had murdered a young man named Newell, and, knowing that the citizens were justly incensed against him, he sought a change of venue, or wished to be tried elsewhere than in San Francisco, where he was known. The bill favoring this criminal's design passed the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor, though it afterwards became a law by a two-thirds vote of the members.

The Change of Venue in the Horace Smith Case. - The Governor vetoed on the 11th the bill to change the venue in the Horace Smith case, from San Francisco county, on the ground that it is judicial in character and in violation of Section 3 of the Constitution; and that he believes it is not true, that a fair trial could not be had in San Francisco. The bill passed both Houses of the Legislature notwithstanding the Governor's veto. In the Senate the vote stood 22 to 9. Mr. Phelps voting against it. In the Assembly the vote was 45 to 22, Mr. Denniston voting for it.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Below, is the clause inserted into the Constitution of the State of California in 1879 by **Eugene Casserly**, in order to prevent the States legislature from ruining the fiscal health of the State. Like Governor Downey, Mr. Casserly was born in the Irish midlands. He was from Mullingar, County Westmeath. This constitutional requirement has stood the test of time and has served the citizens of the State well in the years since.

*The Legislature shall not, in any manner create any debt or debts, #liability or liabilities, which shall ... exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) ... unless the same shall be authorized by law for some single object or work to be distinctly specified therein ...; but no such law shall take effect unless it has been passed by a two-thirds vote of all the members selected to each house of the Legislature and until, at a general election or at a direct primary, it shall have been submitted to the people and shall have received a majority of all votes cast for and against it at such election*

\*Transcription of Senator Casserly's Letter to Governor Downey written after learning that John Downey has vetoed the Bulkhead Bill

San Francisco

April 17, 1860

My dear Governor

I #congratulate you whole heartily upon your most righteous veto of the Bulkhead Bill, of which I have just this moment heard and the news of which has set the whole town fairly wild with exaltation. For my own part, I feel as if I had a joy beyond the general public; because in this act of yours I can be proud of you not merely as a personal & political friend, but as one who has reflected

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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lustre on other interests dear to me & you & all of us, then any others can possibly be. All men who draw their lineage from the same old stock walk about San Francisco today with head erect, and joy & pride in their countenance. Each one of us feels as if some rays of the honor you have won by this days work was to reflect on ourselves: and we know that in honoring yourself and your high office you have cast a lustre on every one in the state who looks back, however remotely, to this same dear land as his own or his forefathers native sod.

To you of course there can be no higher satisfaction than the consciousness of having honestly done your duty. But, I am sure, it will not be displeasing either to you, or your friends, that your veto will be approved & sustained by the entire state. I know this from many sources. Among others, I hear from Judge Hayes & Hall Mc Alistair Esq. both of whom have really been in the Southern mind, that the public in that quarter are unanimous against the bill. Indeed I do not well see how it could be other wise. There is no point of view in which the measure could be restrained, - whether in rebut of principle or of policy or financially had it become a law, it would have left to the Democratic party of this county hardly an existence and it would have been an ever growing burden around its neck throughout the State.

Excuse this long letter, which after all expresses but faintly the emotions excited in me and in all of us, who are your friends, by the glorious events of the day.

My best respects to Mrs. Downey and believe me most truly

Eugene Casserly

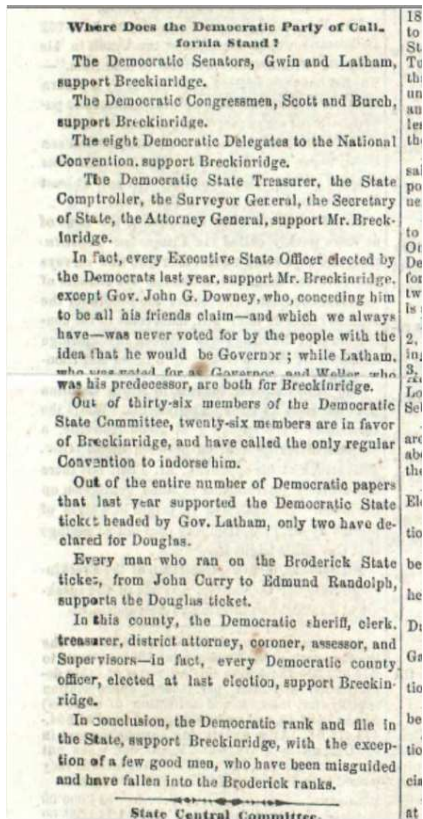
<sup>lxii</sup> The Democratic Party was badly split in the presidential election of 1860, between the pro slavery candidate, John Breckenridge, and the anti-slavery candidate, Stephen Douglas. Downey campaigned vigorously for Douglas, but the Republican, Abraham Lincoln won the election. At the onset of the civil war, Governor Downey took California into the conflict on the side of Lincoln and the preservation of the Union. In doing so he went against the leadership of the Democratic Party including both United States senator, both congressmen and every elected



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

Executive Officer. The ultimate consequences of this courageous action would contribute massively to the ultimate outcome of the Civil War.

Article in the Los Angeles Star Newspaper prior to the 1859 election, questions where Downey stands supporting the party's candidate for President in the upcoming election.



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lxiv During the 1860 presidential election Downey broke with his party and supported Stephen Douglas, the ant secessionist Democratic candidate. He campaigned vigorously for Douglas. Downey felt strongly that the issue of succession should have been settled by a legislative or a judicial remedy, not by going to war

His strong opposition to conflict over this issue was driven in large part by the realization that the armies of the combatants would be filled with young Irishmen mostly from his own generation.

1860 election map.



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The **Constitutional Union Party** (also known as the **Bell-Everett Party** in California) was a political party in the United States created in 1860. It was made up of conservative former Whigs who wanted to avoid disunion over the slavery issue. These former Whigs (some of whom had been under the banner of the Opposition Party in 1854-58) teamed up with former Know-Nothings and a few Southern Democrats who were against disunion to form the Constitutional Union Party. Its name comes from its extremely simple platform, a simple resolution "to recognize no political principle other than the Constitution...the Union...and the Enforcement of the Laws." They hoped that by failing to take a firm stand either for or against slavery or its expansion,

<sup>lxv</sup> Lincoln Letter

[Note in pencil: Enclosed in letter from R. Greenhow to Seward, Feb 9. 1861]

[Notes in pencil: California Dec 13. 1860]

Sir [Note in pencil: [Abraham Lincoln]]

I am aware that it may seem intrusive perhaps presumptuous in me a political opponent to offer any suggestions to your Excellency as to the discharge of the just and most important duty which your high station imposes on you. I refer to the formation of your Cabinet.

But opposed as we are politically I nevertheless feel that on one statement we fully agree viz: the desire that peace and harmony may prevail in all sections of our country and that the unhappy differences which threaten our safety may be composed. I cannot of course expect that you should feel the profound interest in the affairs of the State with which my long residence in, and identification with this portion of the confederacy have inspired me: yet as representing a party pledged to secure to us the great boon we have so long expected, a Pacific Rail Road, I am sure that you are not insensible to the claims of the Pacific Coast to be represented in your cabinet.

The position occupied by California and Oregon is in some respects wholly exceptional.

Their geographical situation prevented their being ranked as purely Northern or Southern States-- They may almost be said to occupy a kind of Neutral position between the two sections of the country Devotedly attached to the Union

[Page 2]

and connected by innumerable ties with all parts of the country, their inhabitants are nevertheless sufficiently removed from the great arena of sectional struggles to be able to contemplate them with scarcely any other feeling than patriotic regret. Such, I believe, is understood to be the sentiment of the very mixed population of which those states are composed. It has appeared to me therefore, that the selection of a Californian to fill a place in your cabinet would † neither be

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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regarded as a triumph for the North or a concession to the South, but rather as indicating a desire to compose your Administration of persons imbued as little as possible with sectional animosities and from position and association identified with neither section nor the opponents of the country

I need not expatiate to your Excellency upon the vast interests which have already grown up on this coast But to understand them fully it is necessary to know this country as no member of the late administration and few public men have yet done.

The resources of this state both mineral & agricultural its vast extent of littoral, its fine harbors and growing commerce which is even now about to seize upon the treasures of the East the certainly that at no distant day important accessions to our empire on the Pacific must be made -- all

[Page 3]

these considerations will I hope induce your excellency to agree with me, in considering the claim of the Pacific Coast to be represented in your cabinet as not unreasonable in itself as sound policy at this particular junction of affairs should recognize.

If such should be your view of the matter permit to observe that there is no one in the Republican ranks whose elevation to a seat in your cabinet would give so universal satisfaction as Mr Eugene Sullivan.

My acquaintance with him began when as Senator in our Legislature he represented the city of San Francisco. Tho' an ardent republican at a time when party spirit ran highest he had this rare felicity of commanding the respect of all his opponents and securing the friendship of a vast majority of them. Perhaps no man in the state has so many friends and so few enemies, on this point I hazard a little in saying that both Col Baker and Mr Latham will confirm my statements.

I have ventured with some hesitation to make these suggestions for your Excellency's consideration I will not assert that in doing so I am wholly uninfluenced by sentiments of personal friendship

[Page 4]

for Mr Sullivan. But a far more powerful motive with me has been the desire of seeing the vast interests both present and prospective of the Pacific slope properly understood and represented and represented at Washington and to weave new ties of Union between us and the Atlantic States by making us feel that we are no longer neglected or ignored and that we have an actual & practical influence in the councils of the Nation. I have also been influenced by the idea that no more unobjectionable and even conciliatory a choice of a cabinet officer could be made, than of

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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one who represents neither section of the country but rather like the population of the State, and all sections alike.

[Note in pencil: [John G Downey]

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?page=538&Print=120>

NOTE: notice the note at the top of the letter, "Enclosed in letter from R. Greenhow to Seward, Feb 9. 1861" Greenhow would later be found to be a confederate spy..

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**John Downey Harvey** was the first born child to Eleanor Downey and Walter Harvey,.

He was a nephew of John Gately Downey, the seventh Governor of California, and Annie Downey Donahue, wife of Peter Donahue of San Francisco.

Date of birth: 1860.

Eleanor Downey, born September 8th, 1828, in the town land of Castelesampson, Taughmaconnell Parish, South County Roscommon Ireland.

Eleanor Downey taught school in Southern California before she married Major Walter Harvey, from Georgia, in San Gabriel Mission, in Los Angeles County in 1858.

Eleanor and Walter had two children, John Downey Harvey (1860-1947) and Mary (1862-1867).

Walter Harvey died in Los Angeles in 1861, before his daughter, Mary was born, leaving Eleanor a young widow.

Although John Downey Harvey was born in Los Angeles, he grew up in San Francisco when his mother married Edward Martin On May 13th. 1869.

Mr. Martin was from Enniscorty, County Wexford, Ireland, and arrived in San Francisco in 1849. Edward Martin was a widower with seven children prior to marrying Eleanor Downey Harvey.

Eleanor and Edward were married at San Gabriel Mission in Los Angeles county on Martin On May 13th. 1869. The witnesses were John G Downey and Catherine Den.

Eleanor and Edward Martin, had three sons, Andrew (1870-1899), Peter (1871-1915), and Walter (1874-1957).

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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John Downey Harvey became a lawyer.

He married Sophia Cutter, (1863-1943) the daughter of BB Cutter.

John and Sophia had two daughters.

Their daughters were Mrs. Oscar Cooper late of New York, and, Mrs. Wade Barron.

Each in turn had a daughter, Jane Cooper and Sophie Barron.

Jane Cooper and Sophie Barron are John Downey Harvey's grandchildren.

Jane Cooper (1808-1971) married John Millen (1907-1976)

John Downey Harvey died in San Francisco in 1947.He was 87 years old.

His wife Sophie died in 1943, at the age of 80 years.

Note:

There are two other people interred in the Downey Donahue family plot in Colma California.

Anita Cooper Harvey (1884-1980) and Natalie Mecklenburg. (1880- 1931)

lxvii

Although the telegraph between San Francisco was in place, the cost was so high that it got little use. The Los Angeles newspapers could not afford to get regular dispatches form the East and it wasn't until the 1880's that they could afford to avail of the service.

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To His Excellency  
J. G. Downey  
Gov. of California

*San Francisco Dec 17th 1860*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Sir:

I have received through your private secretary, the commission of Major General of the 2d Division of California Militia. I have accepted duly qualified.

I sincerely thank you for this mark of Your confidence, and hope that my future conduct may prove that it has not been misplaced.

Very respectfully

Your obt servt

H.W. Halleck

Ixix

Lincoln's inaugural speech

**Fellow-citizens of the United States:**

**In compliance with a custom as old as the government itself, I appear before you to address you briefly, and to take, in your presence, the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States, to be taken by the President "before he enters on the execution of this office."**

**I do not consider it necessary at present for me to discuss those matters of administration about which there is no special anxiety or excitement.**

**Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States, that by the accession of a Republican Administration, their property, and their peace, and personal security, are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed, and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that**

***"I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so."***

**Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this, and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them. And more than this, they placed in the platform, for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves, and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:**

***Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes."***

**I now reiterate these sentiments; and in doing so, I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible, that the property, peace and security of no section are to be in any wise endangered by the now incoming Administration. I add too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given, will be**

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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**cheerfully given to all the States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause -- as cheerfully to one section as to another.....**

<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/1inaug.htm>

<sup>lxx</sup> “The startling events transpiring upon our Atlantic seaboard, would seem to indicate that the Union which binds our free and happy confederacy together, is in imminent danger of disruption. Such a state of affairs exists as makes it probable that, unless the conservative element of the Union steps forth and places itself in the breach, the dire calamity of dissolution will follow. At such a time as this, I deem it due to the position I occupy, to lay before you the critical position of our federal relations, and express to you, the people’s representatives, the deep solicitude I feel in the perpetuity of that Union transmitted, to our care by the Fathers of the Revolution, for the benefit of succeeding generations – for the security of civil and religious liberty – and the honor, glory, and power, of the American name. . . .

“There is no State in the American Union that has, in so short a time, added so large a quota to the material importance and commercial greatness, as California has to the confederacy of which she is a member; and none, perhaps, has received so little in return. Notwithstanding this, she stops, not to calculate the pecuniary value of her connection with Union. Such sordid motives find not a resting place in the bosom of Californians, for they are for the Union at all hazards!”

In a Message to the citizens of the State Governor Downey asked that they side with the Union , and said, “I feel deep solitude in the perpetuity of the Union, transmitted to out care by the father of the revolution for the benefit of succeeding generations, for the security of civil and religious liberty and honor, glory and power of the

American name. You should by joint resolution express your disapprobation of all measures, with which any portion of the Confederacy may be justly dissatisfied or their constitutional rights in the humblest degree affected. ”

<sup>lxxi</sup> At the beginning of 1861, as the nation edged ever closer to conflict over the secession of the Southern States, pro-secessionist Democrats held the reins of power in California. Accordingly, it was widely expected that California would support the Confederate cause if civil war broke out. Both, United States Senators, Senator’s Gwin and Latham supported John Breckenridge, the pro-slavery, pro-secessionist candidate for president. So too, did California’s two Congressmen, Scott and Burch. The eight Democratic Delegates to the National Convention supported Breckenridge. The Democratic State Treasurer, the State Controller, the Surveyor General, the Secretary of State, the Atty. General, all supported Mr. Breckenridge. In fact, every Executive State Official elected by the Democrats the previous year supported Mr. Breckenridge, except



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Governor John G. Downey. Out of the thirty-six members of the Democratic State Committee, twenty-six members were in favor of Breckenridge. Out of the entire number of democratic papers that supported the Democratic State ticket headed by Milton Latham and John Downey, only two have declared for Douglas the anti-slavery candidate on the Democratic slate. In Los Angeles County, Governor Downey's home constituency, the Democratic Sheriff, County Clerk, Treasurer, District Attorney, State Senators, and County Supervisors, in fact every Democratic County Official, elected at the last election, supported Breckenridge. Governor Downey was the lone dis-coordinate voice in a harmonious chorus of support for John Breckenridge. To further exacerbate this situation, only seven of the States fifty-three newspapers supported Lincoln in the presidential election campaign of 1860.

Consequently, State Democratic Party leadership felt confident that they could dictate the direction that the state should take, if and when war broke out. They miscalculated badly, however, in believing that they could convince the young Irish born Governor to bend to their wishes.

Although strongly opposed to settling the issue of succession by going to war, Governor Downey immediately sided with Lincoln once war broke out. His opposition was strongly influenced by the stark reality that countless of his countrymen, most of them from his generation, would surely be slaughtered on both sides, if war came. He favored instead a legislative or a judicial resolution to the disagreements that were dividing the country and leading to hostilities.

Downey's decision to take California into the Civil War on the side of the Union caused great consternation among many of his fellow Democrats. By defying his party wishes, Governor Downey knowingly and willingly sacrificed his future political opportunities for the betterment and benefit of the entire country.

The decision to support the Union effort wasn't something that Governor Downey agonized over at great length. As the only foreign born governor of California, John Downey had no ancestral or regional ties, or any other allegiances, to any one section of the country. This put him in a unique position and allowed him to look at the issues and weigh their consequences at this critical time in the history of the State of California, and that of the Nation. His allegiance was to the United States of America, and to the State of California. This allowed him the freedom to do what he believed was in the best interest of the entire country. Despite his relative youth, John Gately Downey, the young man from Castlesampson in County Roscommon, the youngest Governor in the history of the state of California, proved to be exactly the right man, in the right place, at the right time. By his principled and courageous action, he tipped the scale in favor of Lincoln's campaign to secure the Union, and thereby contributed greatly to preserving the United States of America as we know it today

<sup>lxxii</sup> 1860 Presidential Candidate Party Popular Vote %

Abraham Lincoln Republican 38,733 32.3

Stephen A. Douglas Northern Democrat 37,999 31.7

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John C. Breckinridge Southern Democrat 33,969 28.3

John Bell Constitutional Union 9,111 7.6

Total votes cast in California, 119812\_

38733 for Lincoln\_32.3% & 81079 against Lincoln 67% against

Lincoln beat Douglas by 734 votes.

Bell, Douglas and Lincoln were anti-slavery.

The Constitutional Union Party (also known as the Bell-Everett Party in California) was a political party in the United States created in 1860. It was made up of conservative former Whigs who wanted to avoid disunion over the slavery issue. These former Whigs (some of whom had been under the banner of the Opposition Party in 1854-58) teamed up with former Know-Nothings and a few Southern Democrats who were against disunion to form the Constitutional Union Party. Its name comes from its extremely simple platform, a simple resolution "to recognize no political principle other than the Constitution...the Union...and the Enforcement of the Laws." They hoped that by failing to take a firm stand either for or against slavery or its expansion,

Lincoln inaugural address

[http://americancivilwar.com/documents/lincoln\\_inaugural\\_1.html](http://americancivilwar.com/documents/lincoln_inaugural_1.html)

"I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations and had never recanted them; and more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:

Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

I now reiterate these sentiments, and in doing so I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible that the property, peace, and security of no

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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section are to be in any wise endangered by the now incoming Administration. I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given will be cheerfully given to all the States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause--as cheerfully to one section as to another.

There is much controversy about the delivering up of fugitives from service or labor. The clause I now read is as plainly written in the Constitution as any other of its provisions:

lxxiii

MARCH 22, 1861

*Brig.-Gen. E.V. SUMNER:*

*DEAR GENERAL: Prepare to sail from New York the first of the next month to relieve Bvt. Brig.-Gen. [A.S.] Johnston, in the command of the Pacific Department, say for a tour of some years.*

*The order to sail, etc., will reach you by the next mail, but remain unpublished till you are on the Pacific Ocean, for confidential reasons.*

*In haste, yours truly,*

*WINFIELD SCOTT.*

lxxiv

*Whereas, John G Downey, Governor of the State of California, by his firm and fearless conduct, officially displayed during the last session of the Legislature of the State, in opposition to acts of that body detrimental to the rights and interests of our city, has merited the appreciation and gratitude of the people of San Francisco; therefore be it **Resolved**, That we the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, hereby tender our sincere and fervent thanks to his Excellency, and that the President of the board of Supervisors be required to transmit to him copy of this resolution.*

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Hugh Quigley, author of *The Irish Race in California and the Pacific Coast*, further commented on the resolution; ***No such tribute as that conveyed in this resolution was ever before paid by this city and county, or any county in the State, to the executive head of the government***

<sup>lxxv</sup> It fell to John Downey to make *the* most difficult and the most important decision that any governor in the history of the state of California has ever had to make.

The outcome of the civil war would be heavily influenced by what he decided. The map of the United States would be shaped or reshaped, based on what he decided, and the ambitions of powerful forces both inside and outside of the United States would be heavily impacted by what he decided.

The impact of Governor Downey's decision to take California into the Civil war on the side of the Union had tremendous implications and consequences for both sides in the conflict. Although isolated on the other side of the continent from the seat of government in Washington DC., it was no secret that California had vast natural resources over and above the obvious, gold. These resources would add enormously to the collateral in the account of the government entity that controlled them. To add further fuel to the fire, in 1859, silver was discovered in Virginia City in Nevada Territory. This discovery would unearth the richest find of precious metal ever found anywhere in the world. The Nevada Territory silver find further increasing the value of the west in general, and California in particular, as an ally in the upcoming hostilities.

As the clouds of war descended on the nation the question of where California stood on the issues of the day became enormously important to the leadership on both sides of the succession issue. Should California come into the conflict on the side of the Confederate States, there was simply no way that Lincoln and his Union supporters could possibly wage war in the east and in the south, and at the same time address any hostile in the west, as well. This presented a planning and logistical nightmare for Union military leadership that they had no way to address. It was impractical, indeed impossible, for Lincoln and the national government, to recruit, train and equip another army, then march that army across the continent, over the Rocky Mountains, through the deserts of the Great Basin, then tackle the mighty Sierra Nevada's, before reaching California. An additional headache facing Lincoln was the reality that if California succeeded it would take everything west of The Great Divide plus and the various territories, with it and into the hands of the Confederate states. In 1861 only two states west of the Great Divide were a part of the Union, California, admitted September 9th 1850, and Oregon, having been admitted into the Union in 1859, the eve of the civil war.

In the presidential election of 1861 Lincoln carried California but only by 735 votes, in a four-way race. Anti-Lincoln candidate won two-thirds of the votes cast. To further exacerbate the situation, only seven of the fifty-three newspapers in the state had supported Lincoln's candidacy. Although he won the state's electoral votes, Lincoln was certainly not the popular

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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choice of California voters before hostilities broke out. This situation presented an enormous dilemma for the new President.

To further complicate the issue, both United States Democratic Senators from California, Gwen and Latham, supported John Breckenridge, the confederate candidate for president in the election that saw Lincoln come to power. Both Congressmen, Burch and Scott, from California supported Breckenridge as well. In fact, all of the California state officials, Attorney General, State Surveyor, The Secretary of State etc. all supported Breckenridge. The only Democratic official elected to federal or State office in 1859 and 1860, that did not support Breckenridge, was the thirty-two year old Irish-born Governor, John Gately Downey.

US Senator William Gwen, an ardent supporter of the secessionist cause, represented southern interests in California and he and his allies had plenty of support in the state.

Wars are fought on the battlefield but won or lost in the bond market of the world. Armies must be recruited, trained, armed, equipped, and supplied, an effort that requires an immense amounts of capital. In order to fund their war effort, the Confederate States set about borrowing money from themselves in the form of selling war bonds. These bonds sold well in all eleven Confederate States, but there simply was a finite amount of capital available in the south and not nearly enough to prosecute a successful campaign against the Union army. Attempts to sell bonds in Europe met with limited success. First of all, some European countries saw a successful democratic United States of America as a real threat to the monarchies on that continent. Many felt that a divided America would be less of threat to their way of life. Consequently, then were content to watch this play out from the sidelines.

In Britain, American cotton was a valuable commodity and British millers depended on it to keep their mills working. Cotton mills were the mainstay of the Victorian economy, accounting for as much as 80% of the economic output during that period. Britain therefore had a great interest in how this conflict turned out. Their interests were aligned with the south.

There was very little enthusiasm on the continent for buying bonds issued by bunch of American slave states. Faced with this reality, the south then turned to The House of Rothschild, an institution who had financed winners and losers in wars across the continent for generations, but found to their chagrin, that they were not overly enthusiastic. While the north had heavy industry to back their war bonds, the south has only cotton. Cotton only had value so long as it could be brought to market and a flow of capital developed from it to pay interest on the bonds that financed the war effort.

Undaunted by this setback, Southerners hit on a novel way of making their war bonds more attractive to prospective buyers in Europe. They backed them with cotton instead of interest payments. Bond purchasers could redeem their bonds at the preset rate equal to the pre war value of six pence per pound for cotton instead of interest. Buyers found this arrangement

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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acceptable and bonds began to sell. The south had yet another trick up it's sleeve, with cotton backed bonds selling well they manipulated the market by reducing the output of cotton coming to market and placing an embargo against shipments to Liverpool, the principle port for imported cotton. This drove the price of cotton up, and increasing the value of the bonds held by the foreign bondholders. It had the effect of causing a "cotton famine" devastating the British economy in 1862. 500,000 were left unemployed by this bit of southern blackmail. This scheme worked for a short while but eventually began to unravel when Britain found new sources. Finally, when the port of New Orleans fell to Admiral Farrigut, cotton backed bonds lost all value. The Confederated States issued greenback dollar but their value dropped precipitously finally being worth as little as one cent per dollar.

If Governor Downey had followed the dictated of his own party leadership and taken California into the war in the side of the southern cause none of this would have come to pass. The south would have had all of the resources and collateral associated with California and the west available to them, and their ability to sell all the war bonds needed to finance their war effort would have been guaranteed. The outcome of the civil war would certainly have been greatly affected and a different result could have been realized.

It was the Irish-born John Gately Downey who was singularly responsible for keeping California in the Union, despite the overwhelming political odds favoring alignment the confederate states.

Had California entered the Frey on the side of the South, three outcomes could be anticipated.

The North may have prevailed, though that would have been very unlikely.

The South could have won, possibly with the help of Britain,

A measure of Downey's integrity can be gauges by the fact that although he had political cover if he took the state into the war on the side of the confederate states he still did what he though was best for the state and for the nation. He also had the opportunity to enrich himself beyond all measure by accepting deals proposed confederate sympathizers. A similar situation arose when the Bulkhead Bill was up for his signature. Neither time did he take advantage of the opportunity to profit at the expense of the state. He was a young man in a position of tremendous power, a man of principle and integrity, confident of his position and unwavering in his belief that he was doing the right thing. This young foreigner was more than a match for his political adversaries.

Finally, the war could have simply ended in a stalemate with no winners. In the case of that eventuality, there would be two separate nations, The United States of America and the Confederate States of America.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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John Downey's decision had very far reaching consequence and it is that decision that moiré than anything else is responsible for the map of the United States that we have today.

The long-term effect of Downey's action would reverberate through the west, the nation and indeed the world, arguably to the present day. The map of the Americas would have been altered significantly and the results of that realignment would have had a powerful effect on that was to transpire in the generations ahead.

More confederate soldiers died as the result of disease neglect and malnutrition than did on the battlefield. The confederate's inability to fund medicine, hospitals and to maintain a fighting force was all due to their inability to finance the effort. Had California come in on the side of the confederacy their ability to finance their campaign would have been tremendously improved.

The Terry, Broderick duel was in effect the first shot fired in the American civil war. Senator Broderick died as a result of his wounds three days later. Broderick supported the "free soil", anti-secessionist faction of the Democratic Party; and was a Douglas supporter in the upcoming presidential election. Justice Terry was a member of the "chivalry" faction of the Democratic Party, an advocate of succession, and a strong supporter of John Breckenridge, his party's pro slavery secessionist candidate.

The "chivalry", led by California's other US Senator, William Gwin and Justice Terry desperately wanted to silence Senator Broderick's anti secession voice, and used the duel as a way to legitimize their intentions. The unintended consequence of their actions would set in motion a chain of events that brought about an end result that was the direct opposite to what they had set out to achieve. Their primary goal was to insure that California would come into the civil war on the side to the southern states with all the predictable and desirable consequence that would benefit their cause. What they didn't foresee however was that one of their own, Milton Latham, would seize on the opportunity to become a US Senator when it presented itself, and thereby leave the governorship of the State of California in the hands of the young Irish Catholic Lieutenant governor, John Downey. As it turned out it was Governor Downey's decision to back the Republican President, Abraham Lincoln and preserve the Union that tipped the balance in favor of the Union cause and preserved the map of the United States as we know it today.

Broderick's death would ultimately lead to John Downey becoming the seventh governor of the State of California. The repercussion from the outcome of this duel would reverberate through California, the United States of America, and the entire world from that day on and would ultimately determine who prevailed in the ultimate conflict.

Downey himself acknowledged that after Broderick's death, Latham intended to become US Senator if he and Downey won the gubernatorial election.

**A point of interest;**

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Gertrude Grubb Janeway, age 93, died Friday Jan. 19, 2003, at her home in Blaine, Tenn. She lived in a three-room log cabin bought for her by her husband in 1927. She was the last surviving widow of a Union soldier. Her husband, John Janeway, died in 1937 at age 91.

She married her husband in 1927 when she was 18 and he was 81. In an interview in 1998 she said they sparked for three years because her mother would not sign for her to marry. As a Union widow pensioner Janeway received \$70 per month from the Veterans Administration.

Still living is the last surviving widow of a Confederate soldier, Alberta Martin, age 95, of Elba, Ala. She was born in 1909 and was a widow from her first marriage by the time she was 21. She married her Civil War husband, William Jasper Martin in 1927 when he was 81.

At about 4:30 AM on April 12, Edmund Ruffin fired the first cannon shot at Fort Sumter, and the Civil War was officially underway.

Four long years later, with countless losses on both sides, Ruffin received word that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, and that all was lost. The dream that was the Confederacy was officially over. Upon receiving the news, Ruffin sat at his desk and penned these words:

*"I here declare my unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule -- to all political, social and business connection with the Yankees and to the Yankee race. Would that I could impress these sentiments, in their full force, on every living Southerner and bequeath them to every one yet to be born! May such sentiments be held universally in the outraged and down-trodden South, though in silence and stillness, until the now far-distant day shall arrive for just retribution for Yankee usurpation, oppression and atrocious outrages, and for deliverance and vengeance for the now ruined, subjugated and enslaved Southern States!*

*...And now with my latest writing and utterance, and with what will be near my latest breath, I here repeat and would willingly proclaim my unmitigated hatred to yankee rule--to all political, social and business connections with Yankees, and the perfidious, malignant and vile Yankee race.*

With the completion of the letter, Mr. Ruffin put down his pen, picked up his revolver, and shot himself in the head.

As such, Mr. Ruffin is remembered for two things . . . firing the first shot, and the last shot of the Civil War

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Los Angeles had two newspapers by this time. The second one, The *Los Angeles News*, was very outspoken in it's support of the Union cause. *The Los Angeles Star*, the original newspaper in the community, favored the confederate position. Unionists were in the minority but nevertheless the federal government imposed censorship on the Star while allowing to News to go uncensored. –



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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During the civil War the value of the dollar fluctuated with the successes and failures of the national government. It's value dropped by as much as two-thirds at times. Stability did not return for the dollar until the seventies.

<sup>lxxvii</sup> May 11, 1861.

In San Francisco (May 11th) a demonstration was held to test the sentiment of the people. Everywhere the Stars and Stripes were seen. Montgomery and other streets were literally hidden in bunting, and the sidewalks were crowded with men, women and children wearing the colors of the Union. The procession, the largest ever seen, was composed of all the military, civic and benevolent societies of the city. Platt's hall was crowded and the strong Union sentiments of the speakers, Milton S. Latham, General Sumner, John McDougall and General Shields, were loudly applauded. (Downey did not attend and his political foes, Stanford et al made much of it)

<sup>lxxviii</sup> *The inscription on the cornerstone* at the State of California Capitol Building in Sacramento reads as follow.

MAY 15, 1861

JOHN G DOWNEY, GOVERNOR

GEORGE WALLACE, PRIVATE SECETARY

CORNER STONE LAID THIS DAY

S. M. WILSON ESQ

OF SAN FRANCISCO

SPEAKER OF THE DAY

oo

CORRECT C.J. TORBERT

<sup>lxxix</sup>

The "War Governors" of California were John G. Downey, Leland Stanford, and F.F. Low, and to their loyalty, zeal, and patriotism, and their readiness to respond to every call of the

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Government, is due the promptness with which the different regiments and battalions were organized.

During the exciting and tumultuous times existing upon the outbreak of the war the Legislature was loyal to the Government, and the following concurrent resolution was adopted:

### No. IVIII – CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

[Adopted MAY 17, 1861.]

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That the people of California are devoted to the Constitution and the Union of the United States, and will not fail in fidelity and fealty to that Constitution and Union now in the hour of trial and peril. That California is ready to maintain the rights and honor of the National Government at home and abroad, and at all times to respond to any requisition that may be made upon her to defend the republic against foreign or domestic foes.

When the war commenced the United States forces on the Pacific Coast were under the command of Brevet Brigadier-General Albert Sidney Johnston. It is supposed that there was some doubt as to General Johnston's loyalty, as he was a Southern man, and General Sumner was sent to relieve him of the command. The following are the orders and correspondence relating to the matter:

#### <sup>lxxx</sup> *Camp Downey*

In mid-July 1861, the War Department requested California's Governor Downey for #raise a force of volunteers, infantry and cavalry, to protect that part of the overland stage and mail route between the Sierras and the Rockies. Recruits were plentiful and they were sent to two training camps that had been established on the east side of San Francisco Bay, the infantry to Camp Downey and the cavalry to Camp Merchant. Camp Downey overlooked Lake Merritt in today's Oakland, on today's Seventh Avenue.

War Department

Washington, August 14, 1861

Hon. Governor Downey,

Governor of California Sacramento City Cal.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Please organize, equip, and have mustered into service, at the earliest date possible, four regiments of

infantry and one regiment of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of General Sumner.

Simon Cameron

Secretary of War.

By telegraph to Fort Kearney and hence by Pony Express and telegraph.

[By telegram to farthest point west, and thence by pony express to California.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,

July 24, 1861 – 8:30 P.M.

To the Governor of California:

The War Department accepts for three years one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the overland mail route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake and Fort Laramie.

Colonel Waite will be put in command of department at Salt Lake City. General Sumner will detail mustering officers to muster in the men.

SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

L. THOMAS,

<sup>lxxx</sup>i Dear Mr. President:

The first requisition made upon this State for six thousand and five hundred volunteers has been filled and the command given to Colonel Carleton. It was indicated by the War Department that it was your desire that this office should

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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have the command. I cheerfully complied as I have every confidence in his experience, patriotism and gallantry.

Yours sincerely,

John G. Downey

Governor of California

Governor Downey's quick and decisive response secured the West Coast for the President Lincoln, and tipped the balance towards the Union cause. By doing so however, Downey went against his own wing of the Democratic Party and he knew that he was committing political suicide. Because Downey was foreign born, he had no regional or sectarian bias. He was thus able to weigh the issues and resolve them without having to consider any outside influences. He simply did what was best for California and for the country.

lxxxii

[By telegram to farthest point west, and thence by pony express to California.]

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SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

L. THOMAS,

Adjutant-General.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*[True copy.]*

*Under that call one full regiment of ten companies of infantry was raised, which became the First California Infantry, and five companies of cavalry, which became the First Battalion of the First California Cavalry. In 1863 seven more companies of cavalry were raised, making the First Cavalry a full regiment of twelve companies.*

*Soon after the second call was received by the Governor, as follows:*

*[By telegraph to Fort Kearney, and thence by pony express and telegraph.]*

lxxxiii

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1861

*To JOHN G. DOWNEY, Governor of California:*

*Please organize, equip, and have mustered into service at the earliest date possible four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of General Sumner.*

SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

*Under this second call the Second Cavalry and the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Regiments of Infantry were formed. In this connection the following dispatch is interesting:*

lxxxiv

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1861

*To JOHN G. DOWNEY, Governor of California:*

*Please organize, equip, and have mustered into service at the earliest date possible four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of General Sumner.*

SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*Under this second call the Second Cavalry and the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Regiments of Infantry were formed. In this connection the following dispatch is interesting:*

*WAR DEPARTMENT,*

*WASHINGTON, D.C., August 15, 1861.*

*To his Excellency, JOHN G. DOWNEY, Governor of State of California, Sacramento City, Cal.:*

*SIR: I have this day forwarded to your address a dispatch by telegraph and by pony express, to the effect that in filling the requisition given you August fourteenth for five regiments you will please make General D.D. Colton, of San Francisco, Colonel of a cavalry regiment, and give him the proper authority to organize as promptly as possible.*

*Very respectfully, your obedient servant,*

*SIMON CAMERON,*

*Secretary of War.*

*The commission was offered to General Colton and accepted, but he never completed the organization of the regiment and he was never mustered into the United States service.*

*Immediately upon receipt of the dispatches quoted above, Governor Downey issued the following:*

*[Proclamations.]*

*STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,*

*SACRAMENTO, August 12, 1861.*

*In pursuance of a communication from the Secretary of War, dated July 24, A.D. 1861, "accepting for three years one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the overland mail route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake and Fort Laramie." I, John G. Downey,*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*Governor of the State of California, do hereby call for volunteers for the above mentioned services. The forces will be organized in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States, and will be mustered into service at such times and places as may be directed by the commanding officer of the United States on this coast.*

*JOHN G. DOWNEY,*

*Governor,*

*lxxxv*

*Governor. forwarded to your address a dispatch by telegraph and by pony express, to the effect that in filling the requisition given you August fourteenth for five regiments you will please make General D.D. Colton, of San Francisco, Colonel of a cavalry regiment, and give him the proper authority to organize as promptly as possible.*

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*SIMON CAMERON,*

*Secretary of War.*

*The commission was offered to General Colton and accepted, but he never completed the organization of the regiment and he was never mustered into the United States service.*

*Immediately upon receipt of the dispatches quoted above, Governor Downey issued the following:*

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*STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,*

*SACRAMENTO, August 23, 1861.*

*Whereas, by an additional communication from the Secretary of War, bearing date August 14, A.D. 1861, to the Executive of this State directed, the President of the United States has called for four regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of Brig.-Gen. E.V. Sumner, U.S. Army, "organized, equipped, and mustered into service by the State of California,*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*such call being made in pursuance of the Act of Congress passed July 19, 1861, entitled ‘An Act to authorize the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting the public property.’”*

*Now, therefore, I, John G. Downey, Governor of the State of California and Commander-in-Chief of the militia, etc., of the same, do hereby authorize and call upon the citizens, as many as shall be necessary to fill up the preceding requisition, to immediately form and organize themselves into “volunteer companies,” in accordance with the directions and requirements stated in Sections 17, 18, and 19 of the Statutes of this State, entitled “An Act in relation to the militia of this State,” approved May 9, 1861.*

*Said companies will be accepted and mustered into service according to the reception, by the Adjutant-General of the State, of the certificate of organization mentioned in Section 18 of said Act, and reported by that officer to the Commander-in-Chief, the infantry companies to consist of any number between eighty-three and one hundred and one, and the cavalry companies of any number between seventy-nine and ninety-five, officers inclusive; the commissioned officers of each company to consist of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, and one Second Lieutenant.*

*The Commander-in-Chief will proceed forthwith to organize the regiments aforesaid out of said companies according to their priority and in conformity to law. While the Act of Congress aforesaid requires the “Governors of States furnishing volunteers to commission the field, staff, and company officers requisite,” the Commander-in-Chief will in all cases give preference to the officers elected by the respective companies, provided that they are competent and pass examination before the Military Board already appointed by the United States officer commanding Pacific Division, San Francisco.*

*Volunteer companies already organized and commissioned are expected to report forthwith to the Adjutant-General, tendering their services to meet the requirements of this proclamation. Companies tendering their services will expressly state whether they are infantry or cavalry.*

*In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed.*

*Done at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of August, in the year of our Lord 1861.*

*JOHN G. DOWNEY,*

*Governor*

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*Attest: JOHNSON PRICE, Secretary of State.*



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*The Governor, in his message to the Legislature, said as follows regarding the requisitions made upon him:*

### *THE STATE'S CONTINGENT*

*Two requisitions were made upon me by the Secretary of War for troops for the service of the General Government, the first bearing date of July 24, 1861, for one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry, and the other dated August 14, 1861, for four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry.*

*The Legislature having adjourned without placing any funds at the disposal of the Executive to meet such contingency, and the language of these requisitions urging all possible dispatch, I at once issued my proclamations calling out the required force. It entailed much labor upon this department, for which it feels fully compensated by the character of the officers selected and the soldierly bearing and character of the men who compose the rank and file.*

*The whole contingent as organized is composed of our best citizens – men of character and means from all ranks and pursuits of life – and will achieve an honorable fame for our State and render good service to the nation when called into active duty. In organizing this force commissions were conferred upon officers in the regular army of the United States as Colonels, in order to give efficiency and discipline to our raw recruits. By an order from the War Department I was notified that these officers could not be permitted to retain position in the volunteer service, as they were ordered to the scene of hostilities to join their respective regiments. Two of these officers, Colonels Kellogg and Judah, rendered much aid in raising and organizing the Fourth and Fifth Regiments of Volunteers, at great expense and trouble to themselves, without being permitted to enjoy the honors or emoluments arising therefrom.*

*The cavalry regiment was raised before Colonel Smith arrived to take command of the volunteers; he now has charge of the troops of the State along our southern frontier. I would recommend that appropriations be made to compensate the officers mentioned for the personal expenses necessarily incurred by them and the important services they have rendered the State – say \$2,500.*

*A large amount of business has been entailed upon the Adjutant-General in clerical labor and services attendant upon the extraordinary duty connected with and occasioned by the raising of our contingent, and I would recommend an appropriation of \$1,500 as a just compensation therefor.*

*The militia law of last year is found to work well, and meets the expectations of its advocates. It declares that all necessary expenses arising under its operation shall be defrayed out of the General Fund; but the Legislature failed to make any appropriation. It is hoped that a small appropriation will be made to meet the inconsiderable amounts already audited, as well as the*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*future contingent expenses for the year. Too much importance cannot be placed upon the organization of our militia, in order that efficiency may be attained, and that a military spirit may be infused into our citizens. It cannot be expected that volunteers will drill and parade without arms. For these reasons I recommended last year a military tax for rent of armories and the purchase of arms. We should, therefore, have at least a hundred thousand stands of arms distributed among our militia; instead of this there are not three thousand, and many of these are of antique style and character, of but little use for modern warfare*

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*San Francisco Cala, Sept 18, 1861*

To His Excellency  
John G. Downey  
Gov Commander in chief

Governor.

Having been appointed a Major General in service of the United States I hereby resign my Commission of Major General at the Second Division of the Militia of the State. In separating myself from your Command, permit me to thank you for your kindness and to assure you that I leave you with great regret.

I sincerely hope that the same wise and discreet policy which has marked your Administration may be continued by your Successor and that California may continue faithful to the union and be spared the terrible Evils of Civil War.

Very respectfully

Your obt servt  
H. W. Halleck

lxxxviii There is the possibility that this is not Governor Downey's brother, however it is also unlikely that there were two men by that name in the area at that particular moment in time. The fact that neither his brother nor any other notable personage from that period was named a witness cast an element of doubt. I found no mention of children from this union and found no will.

lxxxix Downey's quick and decisive action caused confederate sympathizers and politicians with southern leanings to begin to leave the state very quickly.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Governor Downey's quick and decisive response secured the West Coast for the President Lincoln, and tipped the balance towards the Union cause. By doing so however, Downey went against his own wing of the Democratic Party and he knew that he was committing political suicide. Because Downey was foreign born, he had no regional or sectarian bias. He was thus able to weigh the issues and resolve them without having to submit to special interests. He simply did what was best for California and for the country.

The impact of Governor John Downey's decision to take California into the Civil war on the side of the Union had tremendous implications and consequences for both sides in the conflict. Although isolated on the other side of the continent from the seat of government in Washington DC., it was no secret that California had vast natural resources over and above the obvious, gold. These resources would add enormously to the collateral in the account of the government or political entity that controlled them. To add further fuel to the fire, in 1859, silver was discovered in Virginia City in Nevada Territory. This discovery would unearth the richest find of precious metal ever found anywhere in the world. The Nevada Territory silver discovery further increasing the value of the west in general and California in particular, as an ally in the upcoming hostilities.

As the clouds of war descended on the nation the question of where California stood on the issues of the day became enormously important to the leadership on both sides of the succession issue. Should California come into the conflict on the side of the Confederate States, there was simply no way that Lincoln and his Union supporters could wage war in the east and in the south, and at the same time address any hostile in the west, as well. This presented a planning and logistical nightmare for Union military leadership that they had no way to address. It was impractical, indeed impossible, for Lincoln and the national government, to recruit, train and equip another army, then march that army across the continent, over the Rocky Mountains, through the deserts of the Great Basin, then tackle the mighty Sierra Nevada's, before reaching California. An additional headache facing Lincoln was the reality that if California succeeded it would take everything west of The Great Divide with it and into the hands of the Confederate States. In 1861 only two states west of the Great Divide were a part of the Union, California, admitted September 9<sup>th</sup> 1850, and Oregon, having been admitted into the Union in 1859, the eve of the civil war.

In the presidential election of 1861 Lincoln carried California but only by 735 votes, in a four-way race. Anti-Lincoln candidate won two-thirds of that voted cast. To further exacerbate the situation, only seven of the fifty-three newspapers in the state had supported Lincoln's candidacy. Although he won California's electoral votes, Lincoln was certainly not the popular choice of California voters before hostilities broke out. This situation presented an enormous dilemma for the new President.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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To further complicate the issue, both United States Democratic Senators from California, Gwen and Latham, supported John Breckenridge, the confederate candidate for president in the election that saw Lincoln come to power. Both Congressmen from California supported Breckenridge as well. In fact, all of the California state officials, Attorney General, State Surveyor, The Secretary of State etc. all supported Breckenridge. The only Democratic official elected to federal or State office in 1859 and 1860, that did not support Breckenridge, was the thirty-two year old Irish-born Governor, John Gately Downey.

US Senator William Gwen, an ardent supporter of the secessionist cause, represented southern interests in California and he and his allies had plenty of support throughout the state.

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Wars are fought on the battlefield but won or lost in the bond market of the world. Armies must be recruited, trained, armed, equipped, and supplied, an effort that requires an immense amounts of capital. In order to fund their war effort, the Confederate States set about borrowing money from themselves in the form of selling war bonds. These bonds sold well in all eleven Confederate States, but there simply was a finite amount of capital available in the south and not nearly enough to prosecute a successful campaign against the Union effort. Attempts to sell bonds in Europe met with limited success. First of all, some European countries saw a successful democratic United States of America as a real threat to the monarchies on that continent. Many felt that a divided America would be less of threat to their way of life. Consequently, then were content to watch this conflict play out from the sidelines.

In Britain, American cotton was a valuable commodity and British millers depended on it to keep their mills working. Cotton mills were the mainstay of the Victorian economy, accounting for as much as 80% of the economic output during that period. Britain therefore had a great interest in how this conflict turned out. Their interests were aligned with the south.

There was very little enthusiasm on the continent for buying bonds issued by bunch of American slave states. Faced with this reality, the south then turned to The House of Rothschild, an institution who had financed winners and losers in wars across the continent for generations, but found to their chagrin, that they were not overly enthusiastic. While the north had heavy industry to back their war bonds, the south has only cotton. Cotton only had value so long as it could be brought to market and a flow of capital developed from it to pay interest on the bonds that financed the war effort.

Undaunted by this setback, Southerners hit on a novel way of making their war bonds more attractive to prospective buyers in Europe. They backed them with cotton instead of interest payments. Bond purchasers could redeem their bonds at the pre-set rate equal to the pre-war value of six pence per pound for cotton, instead of interest. Buyers found this arrangement acceptable and bonds began to sell. The south had yet another trick up its sleeve, with cotton

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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backed bonds selling well they manipulated the market by reducing the output of cotton coming to market and placing an embargo against shipments to Liverpool, the principle port for imported cotton. This drove the price of cotton up, and increasing the value of the bonds held by the foreign bondholders. It had the effect of causing a “cotton famine” devastating the British economy in 1862. 500,000 were left unemployed by this bit of southern blackmail. This scheme worked for a short while but eventually began to unravel when Britain found new sources. Finally, when the port of New Orleans fell to Admiral Farragut, cotton backed bonds lost all value. The Confederated States issued grey-back dollar but their value dropped precipitously finally being worth as little as one cent per dollar. The South's inability to raise the capital it needed to wage war was a major factor in its eventual defeat. Unable to raise capital, to finance their efforts, more confederate soldiers would die for neglect, disease and starvation than at the hands of their enemies.

By the fall of the year 1862, Abraham Lincoln had become desperate for a victory in the war against the Confederate States. Up to that time, the South had achieved victory after victory. Bull Run, Wilson's Creek, and Shiloh had all been convincing victories for the Confederate Armies. Lincoln realized that if the North did not achieve a major victory soon, the survival of the Union would at risk. If Governor Downey had followed the desire of his own party leadership and taken California into the war in the side of the southern cause the confederate forces would have had the financial capability to continue to exact defeat after defeat on the Union forces. The south would have had all of the resources and collateral associated with California and the west available to them, and their ability to sell the war bonds needed to finance their war effort would have been backed not only cotton, but by the resources of not only California, but also Nevada and indeed all of the west beyond the Rocky Mountains.. The outcome of the civil war would certainly have been greatly affected and a different result would have been realized.

In the end, more confederate soldiers died as the result of disease, neglect, and malnutrition than did on the battlefield. The confederate's inability to fund medicine, hospitals and to maintain a fighting force was all due to their inability to finance the effort. Had California come into the conflict on the side of the Confederate States they would have had no difficulty financing their war effort.

It was the Irish-born John Gately Downey who was singularly responsible for keeping California in the Union, against what otherwise would have been a pro-Confederate domination of the state and the region

Had California entered the Frey on the side of the South, several outcomes could have been reasonably anticipated.

The North may have prevailed, though that would have been very unlikely.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The South could have won, especially with the help of Britain and France,

The most likely outcome would have the South winning

Finally, the war could have simply ended in a stalemate with no definitive winners. In the case of that eventuality, there would be two separate nations, The United States of America and the Confederate States of America.

The long-term effects of Downey's action prevented any of those scenarios becoming a possibility, and immediately reverberate through the west, the nation and indeed the world. The map of the Americas would have been altered significantly as the results of any realignment with dramatic consequences for the United States, North America, and for the world in general. The world as we know it today was shaped to a very significant degree by Governor Downey's decision

<sup>xc</sup> Appointed John A Sutter as Major General, 5th.Division, of the California State Militia.

Johann August Sutter (February 23, 1803 – June 18, 1880) was a [Swiss](#) pioneer of [California](#) known for his association with the [California Gold Rush](#) by the discovery of [gold](#) by [James W. Marshall](#) and the mill making team at [Sutter's Mill](#), and for establishing [Sutter's Fort](#) in the area that would eventually become [Sacramento](#), the [state's](#) capital

<sup>xcii</sup> Col. #*Agoston Haraszthy*, a Hungarian immigrant to the US who settled in Sonoma, California, was asked by Calif. Governor John Downey to go to Europe and to find sample cuttings of the best European varieties of grapes. Haraszthy's methodology, personality and perseverance earned him the name of Father of California Wines. Downey's foresight put the power and prestige of the State behind this most important California industry. When the legislature reneged on their commitment and refuse to reimburse Haraszthy upon his return to California, John Downey contributed generously out of his own pocket. This signaled the birth of the California grape and wine industry.

*Article by John Downy for The Overland Monthly for June, 1874*

“If California is not at present, indeed, the favorite grape-growing country of the world, it is destined, certainly, to attain that rank, and also to become the most extensive”

In 1861,

Haraszthy was appointed by Governor of California . The Governor of California is the chief executive of the California state government, whose responsibilities include making annual

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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"State of the State" addresses to the California State Legislature, submitting the budget, and ensuring that state laws are enforced...

[John G. Downey](#)

John Gately Downey was an Irish-American politician and the seventh Governor of California from January 14, 1860 to January 10, 1862. Until the election of Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2003, Downey was California's only foreign-born governor...

as a commissioner to report to the Legislature on the “ways and means best adapted to promote the improvement and growth of the grapevine in California.” He decided to make a trip to Europe to investigate the best European vine-planting and winemaking practices and to gather cuttings of European vines. He traveled through France, Germany, Switzerland, and Spain before returning to California in December 1861 with more than 100,000 cuttings of more than 350 different varieties of vines. He offered to sell the vines to the state, propagate them in his Sonoma nursery, test them to determine which were best suited to the California soil and climate, and distribute them to would-be winemakers throughout California. The Legislature refused the offer, leaving Haraszthy to distribute the vines at his own expense. It was a financial setback, for Haraszthy had expended large sums of money in gathering the vines and bringing them back to California.

xcii

### Governor Downey’s other Contributions

John Downey’s historic role in taking the decisive actions that kept California in the Union and mobilized the state to defend the nation, of course, over shadows his other accomplishments, but they are worthy of mention. Those include, as Governor Downey stated in his January 7, 1861 State of the State address to the legislature: “commencement of our State Capitol, the State Reform School, at Marysville, the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Asylum, at San Francisco, the increased donations to the Orphan Asylums and other objects of charity, the Boundary Survey, the Geological Survey and the increased appropriation for the Insane Asylum.”

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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In addition to establishing the State Library, Downey worked closely with the federal government, which had donated seventy-two land grants in California, in the establishment of “Common Schools” (i.e. public schools) and a “University.” In sharp contrast to today’s proponents of the ‘voucher system’ which would eliminate any meaningful public education, Downey told the State Legislature that:

“It may be safely affirmed that a general system of education, whereby the children of the poor as well as the rich are afforded access to the portals of science and literature, is the most necessary of all the supports to the edifice of civil liberty. To say nothing of the philanthropy of the work of training the minds of the children of the State to the principles of virtue and the refining influences of intellectual culture, it has ever been conceded that republican institutions depend for their existence entirely upon the virtue and intelligence of the people.”[25]

Downey also played an important role in promoted the agricultural development of California. He supported the state’s agricultural societies and took measures to encourage the cultivation of cotton, which has become a major product in the state, as well as, flax and corn.

Disgusted by the pork barrel policies of his predecessors, which had put the state into a debt of over \$400,000,000 the new governor set about the business of establishing the basis for actual economic development and protecting the general welfare of the population. He was outraged that the state had no university, no state library, no sound buildings to house orphans, prisoners, or the insane. He took measures to correct these problems, but the historical battle of California’s role in the survival of the nation would be his priority in the two-years of his term.

<sup>xciii</sup> Leland Stanford had to take a rowboat the two blocks from the Capitol to his mansion in flooded Sacramento, and step in through a second-story window, on the day he was inaugurated as governor of California, Jan. 10, 1862. That was probably the highlight of a two-year tenure that ended when his new Republican Party refused to re-nominate him.

<sup>xciv</sup> With the port of New Orleans in the hands of Union forces the ability of the Confederate States to finance the war effort is greatly reduced. The Confederate States now feel the full effect of relying on one principle source to finance their war effort. Had California’s joining the Confederate States they would have had at their disposal all of the considerable resources of the Western States. This was a crippling blow to the Southern States.

England and Cotton "Cotton Diplomacy"



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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"The cards are in our hands", proclaimed the Charleston *Mercury*, "and we intend to play them out to the bankruptcy of every cotton factory in Great Britain and France or the acknowledgement of our independence." The Memphis *Argus* told planters to "keep every bale of cotton on the plantation."

England imported three-fourths of its cotton from the American South. "What would happen", asked James Hammond in his famous prewar "King Cotton" speech of 1858, "if no cotton was furnished for three years?... England would topple headlong and carry the whole civilized world with her, save the South."

Since the administration of President Jefferson Davis wanted to avoid any appearance of international blackmail, the Confederate Congress never formally approved a cotton embargo, but state governments and private citizens voluntarily withheld the crop from the market in hopes of creating a "cotton famine" abroad. The Confederacy was mistaken in its belief that their embargo on "King Cotton" would force the British government to intervene on the side of the South in the Civil War. For one thing, a bumper cotton crop in 1860 had glutted the marketplace, lowering prices and allowing mill owners in England to stockpile cotton.

The initial Southern embargo on the export of cotton and, later, the increasing effectiveness of the Northern blockade did, however, have a brief impact on British life, but in 1862, when the shortage began to be felt more strongly, new sources of supply had been developed in India, Egypt, and elsewhere. Also, more than a million bales had gotten through the blockade, and the British economy was stabilized by a compensating war boom in other industries.

England and France were both wary of entering a war with the United States. Furthermore, Southern society tied cotton to slavery, and England, setting an example France would follow, led the abolitionist movement in the world community.

***Fascinating Fact:*** With his "cotton diplomacy", President Davis unwisely allowed his country to hoard its one great asset; thus, the Confederacy undermined its best opportunity for financing the war.

<sup>xcv</sup> 1862, Anna (also known as Annie) marries San Francisco industrialist Peter Donahue. Peter was one of the remarkable Donahue brothers who among other accomplishments founded Pacific Gas and Electric Co., as well as the first iron foundry on the West Coast. Peter becomes known as the father of California industry.

The City of Anaheim (German for Anna's home) was named for Anna Downey.

Anna died in 1896, eleven years after Peter, at the age of 60.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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### *The City of Anaheim*

The City of Anaheim got its name when the elders in this German district looking for a way to thank John Downey for his help and guidance in expanding their community offered him the honor of naming their rapidly growing little town. His sister Anna (Annie), had lived there and may have been a teacher in the local school, before she married. John Downey thought it would be nice to honor her and to put a German face on the town as well. He proposed that they name this burgeoning area, “Anna’s home” but translate it into German, hence, Anaheim.

How Anaheim California got its name.

In the 1850’s a group of German settlers bought land in what is now the City of Anaheim, and planted vineyards. They were vintners in Germany and wanted to continue that line of work when they came to California. At that time Los Angeles County was the major grape growing region in California. As a part of that effort they got a loan from John Downey. That began a relationship between Downey and the community founder, John Frohling and Charles Kohler, which continued throughout their lifetime. Frohling and Kohler were successful in their efforts and a small community grew up around these vineyards. Downey understood that to develop a community certain basic needs needed to be met. Accordingly, he was involved as a lender and advisor as the community became a village and he helped them establish a school and later a church etc.

When John G Downey and others established the railroad in the Los Angeles basin, tracks were laid through this little community linking it with the rest of the basin as well as the port of San Pedro.

Grapes are susceptible to a blight called Pierce’s Disease, and it so happened that after the vineyards were well established the entire vineyards were destroyed by this blight. This spelled potential disaster for this community. As they had done before, Frohling and Kohler sought out John Downey for advice.

Downey was well aware of the success that the original Spanish Padres had realized with the orange groves they planted, and he had had successfully planted oranges himself. He encouraged Frohling and Kohler to do likewise and plant oranges groves. They took his advice, and he in turn financed that effort, which turned out to be very successful. Frohling and Kohler who were the founding fathers of this community, were extremely grateful as their little community, not only survived, but prospered and expanded, and, they now wanted to give it a permanent name. To express their appreciation to Governor Downey for all he had done to help them get established, they suggested that he name their community.

Annie Downey (John Downey’s youngest sister) had been a school teacher in this community before she got married, and had living there then. He suggested that they combine that fact along with the German heritage of the community in the name. Hence, they decided to call it Anna’s home, but translated into German, Anaheim.

Governor Downey wrote about this matter in his autobiographical notes submitted to Hubert Howe Bancroft in 1888. Those notes are filed in the archives at the Bancroft Library on the campus of The University of California in Berkeley.



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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I desire therefore that you would consult with General Wright on this subject and see that there is no unnecessary arrests made of our citizens. These men who maybe accused as secessionists are not going ... the country they are held here by the ties of family and property and I am satisfied that they are willing and READY to .....

I assure you ..... be difficult to find one man of means or class who is not willing to pay his proportion of the federal tax . There are men ..... here as well as in San Francisco who have nothing at stake that are boisterous in their declaration of disloyalty, but this will not ..... them..... case here I assume you among men of means ....standing.

Sincerely desiring as I know you do, that the peace and happiness of the commonwealth may not be disturbed and trusting that you will use your official influence to this end.

I remain  
Yours sincerely  
Your obedient servant

John G Downey.

xcviii

The **Emancipation Proclamation** is an [executive order](#) issued by United States President [Abraham Lincoln](#) on January 1, 1863, during the [American Civil War](#) using his war powers. It proclaimed the freedom of slaves in the ten states then in rebellion, thus applying to 3.1 million of the 4 million slaves in the U.S. at that time. The Proclamation immediately freed 50,000 slaves, with nearly all the rest (of the 3.1 million) freed as [Union](#) armies advanced. The Proclamation did not compensate the owners, did not itself outlaw slavery, and did not make the ex-slaves (called [freedmen](#)) citizens

<sup>xcix</sup> On January 8, 1863, John Downey presented the “Governor’s Annual Address” to the State Legislature in Sacramento. In that speech Downey presented his vision for California to become America’s gateway for trade and commerce with the Asian nations of the Pacific Rim. In order to accomplish that mission, and surpass “England and France,” Downey urged the employment of California’s resources to “enable the General Government to put afloat upon the waters of the Pacific, a large navy, both for the protection of our maritime and commercial interests, and for the peaceful conquest by a wise policy of the nations that from their natural position must sooner or later become commercial tributaries of California. Our sails ought now to cover the Pacific ocean.” After calling on the federal government to establish “regular line packets between San Francisco and China,” Downey outlined his comprehension of American System economics and the proper role of government in fostering economic growth:

“The expenditures necessary to put such a line of steamships into this trade involves too great an outlay for the individual enterprise and means of our merchants; but being once started by Governmental subsidy the best informed of

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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our commercial men are of the opinion that such increased facilities of communication would stimulate trade to such a degree that the Government's aid would not long be required."

However, the Governor stressed in his presentation that there was another national infrastructure project that had to take precedence:

*"But we can never hope to assume a supremacy as a commercial State, nor can the United States avail herself of her superior natural advantages, which would make her the greatest maritime nation on earth, until we have a railroad completed connecting the Atlantic and Pacific."* [emphasis in the original]

Much has been presented already in this report about the historic role of the European oligarchy, particularly the British, and their goal to achieve the disintegration of the Union and the elimination of the principles upon which it was founded. The conclusion of Governor Downey's message address precisely that problem, and his resolution to resolve it by reaffirming the true mission of the United States: [all emphasis is in the original]

"The founders of American liberty did not consider their work concluded their institutions safe, until they had formed 'A MORE **PERFECT UNION**' than existed between the thirteen colonies during the revolutionary struggle, for the preamble to the first compact reads as follows: 'Articles of Confederation and PERPETUAL Union between the States;' showing that from the beginning the Union was one of the principles of the revolution, *lasting* as the life of a nation. The policy of the mother country had been to keep the several colonies, as so many separate provinces, without any bond of union between them of associated counsels, combined strength, or commercial privileges. Union and nationality, therefore, early became one of the principles of the revolution, without which the liberties of the people were not considered safe against the intrigues and alliances of the crowned heads and aristocracy of Europe, who are as hostile to Republican institutions now as they were in any past generation. It was considered that, without a supreme government to concentrate and wield the united strength of the whole, the new States would be incapable of maintaining their republican institutions against the combinations of European monarchies. That unless there was sovereign power in a National Congress, to guarantee and preserve peace

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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between the several States, that internal discord and jealousies, promoted by ambitious men taking advantage of local prejudices and interests, would inevitably lead to civil war, as had been illustrated by the history of the ancient Grecian republics. That the principle of UNITY between the separate States, on the grounds of perfect equality in rights, in justice and in benefits, as expressed in the motto 'E PLURIBUS UNUM,' was the *vital* element of our free institutions and personal liberties; UNITY for defence, for the protection of our commerce, for the suppression of domestic insurrections, and for the general welfare. . . . For the protection of their commerce on the high seas, for the purpose of preventing monarchical ideas and policy from overrunning the American Continent, as they have overrun and subdued Europe, a Union of some kind will be found absolutely necessary between these Republican States. The principle of Union is *life*, - the principle of Disintegration is *death*, to American policy, American greatness, and American progress and civilization; . . .

“In the very beginning of the process of severance and disintegration of the American Union, we have a demonstration of the fact, that however hostile to each other European monarchies may be, they will settle their own disputes, and league together for the suppression of republican ideas and the maintenance of privilege, birth, and official honors in hereditary descent. Three of the great powers of Europe have now combined to force monarchical institutions and aristocratic privileges upon that living embodiment of Disunion principles, the Republic of Mexico. And if the present unhappy war continues in the United States, until the forces of the Republic are unable longer from exhaustion to prolong the conflict, except in guerrilla warfare between the sections, the same Powers will combine to enforce aristocracy and royalty upon Americans, partitioning among themselves the splendid domain of the present American Empire. The Union of the States is not only necessary to the existence of republican institutions on this continent, but it is the only hope of the oppressed nationalists of Europe in their aspirations for liberal laws and equal rights. The same combinations of monarchical power and wealth have heretofore been successful in crushing republican ideas upon the Eastern continent, wherever they began to obtain ascendancy in any portion of Europe. The increasing power and greatness of the American Union had inspired hope in the oppressed of Eastern nations that, in due time, the policy asserted by us on this continent, -- non-interference of European monarchies in crushing out republican institutions, -- would be extended there. . . .”

c

Czar Alexander II's decided to send a fleet to San Francisco and New York in 1863 during the American Civil War to show support for the union

<http://civilwartalk.com/forums/showthread.php?28375-Russian-Fleet-Shows-Support....>

### **1863-1864 Russian Fleet Expedition to North America**

This American expedition became a military demonstration by Russia during the U.S. Civil War. England and France advocated for the southern rebels. Russia held a friendly position in respect to the federal government in the North. It increased hostility toward Russia on the part of England and France, which strove for loosening its international influence. The Russian government decided to send two ship squadrons to the US to demonstrate support for the northerners, as well as to create a potential threat to marine communications of England and France in order to make them refuse assistance to the South States.

The Russian squadrons set out towards the coast of North America in the second half of 1863. The Atlantic squadron commanded by rear admiral S.S. Lesovskii (frigate "Aleksandr Nevsky", "Peresvet", "Osliabia", corvettes "Variag", "Vitiuz" and clipper "Almaz") departed from the Russian port of Kronshtadt and went to New York. Another squadron - Pacific - was commanded by rear admiral A.A. Popov (corvettes "Bogatyr", "Kalevala", "Rynda", "Novik", clippers "Abrek" and "Gaidamak"). They went from the ports of the Far East and set out to San Francisco. In September 1863, the squadron of Lesovskii arrived at the port of New York, and the squadron of Popov - to the port of San Francisco. The Russian squadrons stayed in these ports of North America and sailed near its West and East coasts until August 1864. Individual ships of the Atlantic squadron, which were based in New York, visited Baltimore, Annapolis, Hampton, the Caribbean sea, the gulf of Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, Havana, Jamaica, Curasao, Cartagena, Bermuda islands and Aspinwall. The ships of the Pacific Ocean squadron had were based in San Francisco and went for practical sailing to Honolulu, the South hemisphere, Sitka and Vancouver. Russian navy seamen showed high naval skills, discipline and good organization during these voyages.

The Atlantic squadron returned to Russia late July. The Pacific squadron returned in August 1864. The appearance of the Russian squadrons off the coasts of America caused a great political reaction and forced England and France to change their positions in respect to Russia and the Northern states of America. In 1866, the government of the US sent a ship detachment with special deputation. This detachment officially expressed gratitude to the Russian government for assistance to the northerners in their struggle against slavery.

ci <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ca/state1/tinkhamch16.html>

The Union Democrat convention composed of Douglas men July 4th assembled at Sacramento and organized. The following day they adopted a platform. It indorsed the government. It differed from the Republican in this very important principle: They opposed any coercion of the

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south. For Governor, John Conness, (From Portumna Co. Galway Ireland) John Biswell and John G. Downey were placed in nomination. Ex-Governor Downey (f) was their choice..

cii

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

ciii **Reputation.** *Spalding in his History of the City and County of Los Angeles wrote; no meeting of public spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside.*

civ **National Union Party**

In anticipation of a close election, the Republican Party, to appeal to war Democrats, changed its name to the National Union Party for the 1864 election.

cv

*William Spaulding, The history of Los Angeles City and County. Governor Downey was the most prominent political and historical character of the American regime.*

cvi Downey and Banning saw the formation of Pioneer Oil, on January 24, 1865 “for the purpose of prospecting for petroleum.” Pioneer was the first oil company in California, and it exploited the resources of what is now Hancock Park and the La Brea Tar Pits (*brea* is the Spanish word for tar).



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cvii Former Governor Downey became the first major landowner in Southern California to subdivide his land for the benefit of the citizenry.

cviii



At the outbreak of the Civil War, the Western States were effectively walled off from the East Coast by distance, by the Rocky Mountains, by the deserts in the Great Basin, and by the mighty Sierra Nevada Mountain range. Access from the Southern states was relatively easy however, through the southern route, shown here in blue. Had California come into the Civil War on the side of the Confederate States, the Confederates would have controlled all of the territories West of the Rocky's as well as the entire Pacific Coast of North America. All of the considerable resources and assets associated with that vast landmass would have been available to bolster and finance the Confederate war effort. Once California sided with Lincoln and the Union effort all of this was lost. It was their inability to adequately finance the war that ultimately led to the collapse of the confederacy.

Some statistics - Northern population: 22,200,000 Southern population: 10,600,000 (including 3,500,000 slaves) Northern industrial workers: 1,300,000 Southern industrial workers: 110,000 Northern railroad mileage: 22,000 Southern railroad mileage: 9,280.

War dead, 642,000, both sides combined.

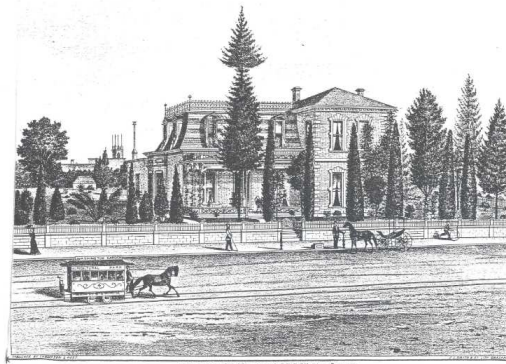
cix

The Ronald Reagan, California State Building sits on that site today.

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Reagan Office Building



Downey Home on South Mains Street LA

<sup>cx</sup> FOR SALE

20,000 ACRES

OF CHOICE AGRICULTURAL LAND  
WITH WATER FOR IRRIGATION.

From the port of San Pedro

The above land will be sold in lots to suit purchaser from 50

acres upward on long -term credit at

\$10.00 PER ACRE

with ten percent per annum interest, The best land for home-  
stead and vineyards in this section of the states.

One tenth to one fifth of the purchase money will be required

In cash according to the location

John G Downey

Los Angeles

Nov.13, 1866

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cxix

[March 23](#) – The [University of California](#) is founded in [Oakland](#). First proposed by Governor Downey during his administration.

cxii

John Downey went to San Francisco and there enlisting J. A. Hayward as a partner. Together they raised \$100,000 capital and opened a bank in an adobe building on Main Street in Los Angeles (a site that is the southeast corner of the Federal Building today).

John Downey and J.A. Hayward officially founded Los Angeles' first "official" bank.

cxiii **1869: Los Angeles and San #Pedro Railroad** began service between the bay and Los Angeles. This 21-mile stretch of track was the first railroad in Southern California and marked the beginning of a new era of development for the harbor area. The link was completed on September 7th, 1869

cxiv **The Downey Block** is still at the very heart of the City of Los Angeles; Downey leased part of the Downey Block the United States Post Office, and another part the United States Treasury. When these US government agencies built their own permanent buildings that was the location they chose. Los Angeles City Hall, and the Courthouse are all located there. The Civic center of Los Angeles today is located on and around the Downey Block. By choosing that area for his development, John Downey dictated the shape of things to come. For anyone who wondered why the skyline of Los Angeles is as it is, all they need to do is understand where the first development was and learn about the man behind it.

The Downey Block, the first major development in Los Angeles. US Treasury- US Post office-Center of the city. City hall courts-High rise Today's City Hall Courts Civic Center High Rise Towers. Reagan Office Building.

cxv Downey drew retail establishments in Los Angeles to a central area and location by building a two-story block long building at Main and Temple that thereafter was known as the **Downey Block**. Warehouse and storage barns were built along Los Angeles Street to facilitate delivery of farm produce. Downey saw himself as a modern businessman and worked hard to bridge the gap between the different cultures. He was married to a native Californian, and he and his wife threw lavish parties where people from the old world and newcomers alike danced in were entertained is at his mansion on South Main Street. The mixture of cultures and the resulting friendships that developed defied the convention of the day.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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“I picked the location because I was sure to be the center of town no matter what which way it grew” John Downey

<sup>cxvi</sup>In November 1869, 4,444 acres, or one league, of the Valle de San José, which included the Ranch House, was conveyed to Ex-California Governor John G. Downey, by Antonio Coronel, Doña Vicenta's agent. As time passed, Downey eventually acquired the remainder of the valley from the Warner and Carrillo interests. From this point on, Anglo-American owners and leaseholders of the property, which included the Ranch House, also figured prominently in California and Southern California history.

Born in 1827 in Roscommon County, Ireland, Downey came to the United States in 1842 at the age of fourteen. With little formal education, he worked his way west in drugstores from Washington D. C. to Cincinnati, ultimately reaching the gold rush in California in 1849. In 1850, Downey moved south and settled in Los Angeles where he entered the drug business with Dr. James P. McFarland.

His business and political empire expanded in Los Angeles as he invested in land and real estate, and joined the first volunteer police force. He married Maria Jesus Guirado in 1852. Californians elected Downey lieutenant governor in 1859; and in 1860 when the state legislature chose Governor Milton S. Latham as California's U. S. Senator, Downey succeeded him as governor. As the state chief executive during the first two years of the Civil War which commenced in April 1861, Downey stood firm in his commitment to keep California connected with the Union. He left office in 1862 and returned to Los Angeles where he continued business and civic involvement with the creation of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank, the founding of the first Chamber of Commerce, the erection of the cable car system, and the donation of land for the establishment of the University of Southern California. The town of Downey was named for him as well as one of the streets of Los Angeles.

John G. Downey, always a legal resident of Los Angeles, visited his ranch often in the Valle de San José throughout the 1870s and 1880s. Although a variety of horses and other livestock grazed the land, Downey specialized in sheep raising. In 1870, he employed Charles R. Ayres, a 34-year-old Virginia native, to supervise his stock. Ayres lived at the Ranch House with his wife, Jesusa, age 23 in 1870, and their three year old daughter, Mary.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Hired by Downey for his expertise in sheep raising and fleece production, Ayres found periodic mention in the *San Diego Union* in this regard. On June 13, 1873, the *Union* reported that:

Mr. Charles Ayers (sic) of Warner's Ranch brought in 24,500 pounds of wool day before yesterday. The whole lot was purchased by Steiner & Klauber. It is first-rate wool. In fact the wool of San Diego County is graded way above that of Los Angeles and other Southern counties, and commands several cents per pound more in the Eastern markets.<sup>56</sup>

The procedure Ayres utilized to extract such superior wool fleeces, unique to San Diego because of the environment from which they were produced, was detailed in the *Union* of October 23, 1873. The impressed journalist stated:

Mr. C. R. Ayers (sic) of Warner's Ranch has struck a good thing on the wool question. Up at his place there are a number of soda springs, the water from which he has used in several instances to wash sheep just previous to shearing them. By slight friction with the hand the water frees the wool from all grease and other impurities and leaves the fleeces as white as snow. Mr. Ayres states that by the expenditure of \$50 the water from the springs can be collected so that four men could wash fifteen hundred sheep per day. Messrs. Stewart & Co. received from Mr. Ayers (sic), yesterday, two fleeces that had been washed in the water from the soda springs, one before being clipped and the other after. Both were clean and white, but that washed while on the sheep had a live appearance, while the other looked dim and dead. These fleeces will be sent East to find out how much buyers in that market are willing to pay for wool cleaned by the soda water process. It is well known by wool raisers that over one half of their fleeces, by weight, is dirt and it costs about a cent a pound to haul wool to this market, and a half a cent more to send it to New York. If clean wool is worth more in proportion to the dirt removed, the sheep owners in the vicinity of the Warner Ranch soda springs have certainly struck a good thing. By washing the sheep occasionally, long fleeces, which are so valuable in the market can be secured by having but one clipping a year or three every two years.

Stewart & Co. received a reply from the East to the wool question which was reported in the 1873 Christmas issue of the *Union*. Greene & Siebert, the large commission house of New York reported their opinion to the two samples sent from Downey's ranch. They claimed the fleece cleaned before shearing was "very handsome, in very light condition, and of good quality," and

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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worth fifty-five cents. The second fleece, cleaned after shearing, was "less sightly and somewhat inferior to the other in quality," but would bring forty-two to forty-four cents in the New York market.<sup>58</sup> The *Union* of May 19,1875 wrote that, "W. W. Steward & Co. have commenced receiving a lot of washed wool from Downey's flock at Warner's Ranch. This is the first instance in the county, we are told where all the sheep have been washed before shearing."<sup>59</sup>

The winter of 1876 proved a harsh one for sheep farmers, not unlike the one Doña Vicenta suffered through in 1865-66 when she had to move her stock from the valley. From January to March, terrible wind, rain and snow storms devastated the grass, cattle, and sheep in the Valle de San José. A writer for the March 28, 1876 edition of the *Union* lamented:

I have not heard the owners of the sheep say anything about their losses, and don't know whether they care to talk of the matter, but the facts are as stated. This high mountain altitude is not adapted for sheep growing like the country a little lower down. In fact, there are only about six months of the year when stock of any kind can be said to do well up here. Messr. Downey struck too high an altitude when he bought this for a sheep ranch.

After this stormy, moist season, the following year proved drier and more profitable for Downey. Instead of concentrating on the sale of fleeces to east coast markets, probably because most of his mature sheep had died, he sold young sheep to California markets. Los Angeles butchers purchased all of Downey's 5,000 "fat wethers"(one-year-old castrated male sheep) for \$2 per head in 1877. In 1878, five hundred head of "fine fat sheep" were shipped by steamer to San Francisco and sold. Also, during this time period, Jacob Metzker, a fifty-eight year old native of Pennsylvania took possession of the Ranch House and became the "stock raiser" for Downey.<sup>61</sup>

Downey continued involvement with his ranch and made at least two trips there in 1879. In March, he spent time recuperating from health problems, and in June he came to supervise the wool clip intended for the Boston market.

In 1880, the ex-Governor hired Andrew Linton, a native of Scotland and single man in his forties, to oversee his ranch operations from the Ranch House. During this time and through the latter part of the decade, Linton supervised twenty-five to thirty thousand head of Downey's sheep, horses and cattle in the valley. Listed in the 1880 Census for Agua Caliente Township as

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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the Farm Overseer, he became the postmaster for the newly established Agua Caliente branch in 1881. In 1884, he received United States citizenship.

Wool production continued to be the economic backbone of this ranch operation during Linton's tenure. The wool clip in 1880 was reported at over 60,000 pounds.<sup>64</sup> The *Union* of May 20, 1882, reported that, "Governor Downey was having his wool hauled yesterday afternoon from Wentscher's warehouse to the wharf, to be shipped by steamer Santa Cruz to San Francisco. The Governor has 207 bales and we understand it is already sold."

In 1884, Downey sold his entire wool clip for the year to W. W. Stewart & Co. which amounted to 90,000 pounds. The *Union* of June 13, 1884 reported that the wool from Warner's "is one of the finest clips, as well as one of the largest in Southern California. The wool is nearly equal to the best Oregon wool and will be graded and shipped to the Boston market."<sup>65</sup> In April 1885, W. W. Stewart & Co. handled 50 bales of wool from Warner's Ranch, and in May, 64 bales or 21,000 pounds of wool.<sup>67</sup>

In 1888, Downey, past sixty years of age and ailing, leased the Valle de San José to Walter L. Vail, a cattleman, who owned and operated the Empire Ranch in Pima County, Arizona, and various ranches in Temecula, which included the Pauba, Santa Rosa, Temecula, and Little Temecula. In partnership with entrepreneur Carol W. Gates, the two ran one of the largest cattle businesses in Southern California through 1913. The Ranch House provided the focal point for their cattle enterprise. Yearlings, either driven from the Empire Ranch to the valley, or carried by railroad car from Arizona to Beaumont, California, and then driven to the valley, leisurely fattened on the abundant grass and water around the Ranch House. After two or three years of pastoral life, cowboys drove the mature animals to the Vail properties at Temecula where they were shipped by rail to Los Angeles for slaughter.

<sup>cxvii</sup> After Major Harvey's death at Los Angeles in 1861, aged forty-one years, Eleanor married Edward Martin who was born, 1819, in Ennescorthy County Wexford, Ireland. Martin settled in California in 1848. Mr. Martin was a co-founder of Hibernia Savings and Loan, later Hibernia Bank as well as First National Bank. He also had a real estate business and a prosperous Lacquer wholesale business. He was one of the first oilmen in Southern California where he had vast land holdings. Mr. Martin became one of the wealthiest men on the West Coast. His land holding alone comprised some 800,000 acres in California and Oregon. He died on May 12, 1880 at his home at 2040 Broadway Street San Francisco.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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<sup>cxviii</sup> In the 1850's a group of German settlers bought land in what is now the City of Anaheim, and planted vineyards. They were vintners in Germany and wanted to continue that line of work when they came to California. At that time Los Angeles County was the major grape growing region in California. As a part of that effort they got a loan from John Downey. That began a relationship between Downey and the community founder, John Frohling and Charles Kohler, which continued throughout their lifetime. Frohling and Kohler were successful in their efforts and a small community grew up around these vineyards. Downey understood that to develop a community certain basic needs needed to be met. Accordingly, he was involved as a lender and advisor as the community became a village and he helped them establish a school and later a church etc.

When John G Downey and others established the railroad in the Los Angeles basin, tracks were laid through this little community linking it with the rest of the basin as well as the port of San Pedro.

Grapes are susceptible to a blight called Pierce's Disease and it so happened that after the vineyards were well established the entire vineyards were destroyed by this blight. This spelled potential disaster for this community. As they had done before, Frohling and Kohler sought out John Downey for advice.

Downey was well aware of the success that the original Spanish Padres had realized with the orange groves they planted, and he had had successfully planted oranges himself. He encouraged Frohling and Kohler to do likewise and plant oranges groves. They took his advice, and he in turn financed that effort, which turned out to be very successful. Frohling and Kohler who were the founding fathers of this community, were extremely grateful as their little community, not only survived, but prospered and expanded, and, they now wanted to give it a permanent name. To express their appreciation to Governor Downey for all he had done to help them get established, they suggested that he name their community.

Annie Downey (John Downey's youngest sister) had been a school teacher in this community before she got married, and had living there then. He suggested that they combine that fact along with the German heritage of the community in the name. Hence, they decided to call it Anna's home, but translated into German, Anaheim.

Governor Downey wrote about this matter in his autobiographical notes submitted to Hubert Howe Bancroft in 1888. Those notes are filed in the archives at the Bancroft Library on the campus of The University of California in Berkeley.

<sup>cxix</sup> ***Organizes #Farmers and Merchants Bank.***

The Farmers and Merchants Bank was the first chartered bank in Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Basin. John D. Downey and Isaias W.Hellman founded the bank in 1871. Downey serves as President.

**September 1, 1868** - Isaias William Hellman founded Hellman, Temple and Co., Los Angeles's second bank; John Downey had already founded a bank with James Hayworth..... **April 3, 1871** - with John G. Downey founded Farmers and Merchants Bank (lent money to Harrison Gray Otis to buy the Los Angeles Times, to Henry Huntington to build Pacific Electric line); first



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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incorporated bank in Los Angeles; **1956** - merged with Security First National Bank (formed by 1929 merger of Security Bank with Los Angeles First National and Savings Bank, 8th largest bank in US); later named Security Pacific National Bank; **1992** - acquired by Bank of America.

The paragraph below is an excerpt from *Towers of Gold*, by Isaias Hellman's great-great-granddaughter, Francis Dinklspiel.

Downey was everything that Isaias longed to be, a man who traveled through the old California aristocracy and the new American merchant and capilast class. He seized opportunities whenever he saw it, taking calculated risks for advancement. Isaias knew Downey would project an image of prosperity for the new bank. In a time when banks were still technically illegal, and were almost completely unregulated, the reputations of the owners often made the difference between success and failure.

“Governor Downey was the most prominent and historical character of the American regime” William Spaulding wrote in his *History of Los Angeles City and County*. “He was parental and kindly, and everyone was very fond of him. No meeting of public-spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside.

Whils Isaias's reputation had been growing the partnership with Downey elevated it to to ne heights. The association nunquestionably put him in the top tier of men in Los Angeles..

### <sup>cxx</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library*

On December 5, 1872, a notice #appeared in local newspapers announcing a public meeting to be held for the purpose of forming a Library Association. One paper, the Star, noted: "The absence of a place where a cultivated person may go for books of reference or standard library works has been spoken of to our injury abroad." Among the 200 who attended the meeting were California Governor John G. Downey, Judge Ignacio Sepulveda, and Colonel E. M. Stanford. On December 7, the group formed the Los Angeles Library Association, which was to become the Los Angeles Public Library.

*Spalding, “no meeting of public-spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside.”*

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Los Angeles Library Notes

7 December 1872 over 200 prominent and concerned merchants, lawyers, educators, and ministers gathered in a local theater to organize

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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the library association.<sup>10</sup> At this meeting Los Angeles pioneer John Downey offered the use of vacant space in a building he owned in the heart of the business district and near the historic Plaza, and the institution that would evolve into the Los Angeles Public Library was born.

The Los Angeles Library Association was unusual in that women did not play a significant role in its founding. Mrs. John Downey was given an honorary membership out of "courtesy."<sup>12</sup> Otherwise, no woman was listed in the association's founding documents, women were not represented on the board, and women were denied access to the library's reading room. However, this situation quickly changed. Within its first six months of operation, the board discussed allowing "lady's" limited membership, letting them use their male relatives' membership cards to gain access to the library's collections.<sup>13</sup> In 1876 the library added a "Ladies Room" to its complex. Although the new room did not contain books, it did house a number of popular magazines as well as comfortable sofas and chairs for local clubwomen to use.

[http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~landc/fulltext/LandC\\_34\\_4\\_Hansen.pdf](http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~landc/fulltext/LandC_34_4_Hansen.pdf)

<sup>cxxii</sup> **Russians.** Several ships under Rear Admiral Lisovskii arrived at New York in September, 1863; in the following month a squadron under Rear Admiral Popov put into San Francisco harbor. Both squadrons were ordered home in April, 1864.

<http://www.rumormillnews.com/cgi-bin/archive.cgi/noframes/read/39508>

<http://www.dailypaul.com/91787/andrew-jackson-kicked-the-rothchilds-banker-out-of-the-usa>

Unannounced, a Russian fleet under Admiral Liviski, steamed into New York harbor on September 24, 1863, and anchored there, The Russian Pacific fleet, under Admiral Popov, arrived in San Francisco on October 12. Of this Russian act, Gideon Wells said: "They arrived at the high tide of the Confederacy and the low tide of the North, causing England and France to hesitate long enough to turn the tide for the North" (Empire of "The City," p. 90).

*The Big Bankers in Europe -- the Rothschilds and their cohorts -- viewed the wonderful results borne by this unique experiment from an entirely different perspective; they looked upon it as a major threat to their future plans.*

The establishment Times of London stated: "If that mischievous financial policy which had its origin in the North American Republic [i.e. honest Constitutionally authorized no debt money] should become indurated down to a fixture, then that government will furnish its own money without cost. It will pay off its debts and be without a debt [to the international bankers]. It will become prosperous beyond precedent in the history of the civilized governments of the world. The brains and wealth of all countries will go to North America. That government must be destroyed or it will destroy every monarchy on the globe."

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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### <sup>cxxiii</sup> ***Chamber of Commerce Los Angeles***

The summer of 1873 was marked by the organization of a corporation designed to advance the general business interests of Los Angeles and vicinity. This was the Chamber of Commerce or, as it was at first called, the Board of Trade; and had its origin in a meeting held on August 1st in the old Court House on the site of the present Bullard Block. Ex-Governor John G. Downey was called to the chair; and J. M. Griffith was made Secretary *pro tem*. Before the next meeting, over one hundred representative merchants registered for membership, and on August 9th, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, a board of eleven Directors elected and an admission fee of five dollars agreed upon. Two days later, the organization was incorporated, with J. G. Downey, S. Lazard, M. J. Newmark, H. W. Hellman, P. Beaudry, S. B. Caswell, Dr. J. S. Griffin, R. M. Widney, C. C. Lips, J. M. Griffith and I. W. Lord, as Directors; and these officers chose Solomon Lazard as the first President and I. W. Lord as the first Secretary. Judge Widney's office in the Temple Block was the meeting-place. The Chamber united and enthusiastically set to work to push forward the commercial interests of Southern California; and the first appropriation by Congress for the survey and improvement of San Pedro Harbor was effected mainly through the new society's efforts. Descriptive pamphlets setting forth the advantages of our locality were distributed throughout the East; and steps were taken to build up the trade with Arizona and the surrounding territory. In this way the Chamber of Commerce labored through the two or three succeeding years, until bank failures, droughts and other disasters, of which I shall speak, threw the cold blanket of discouragement over even so commendable an enterprise and for the time being its activities ceased.

### <sup>cxxiv</sup> ***Rancho Santa Gertrude***

***Modern history of Downey*** begins on October 13, 1873, when a 126-acre lot of Los Nietos township was filed at the Los Angeles records office by the Downey Land Association. The town site was called Downey, after#, California Civil War governor John G Downey, president of the land company.

John Gately Downey, an Irish immigrant who had come to California during the Gold Rush, and succeeded to Governor of California. He helped build the economic foundation of Southern California, effecting a transition from open cattle range to an agricultural district of small farms. In November 1859, Downey and his former drugstore partner, James McFarland, bought the 17,602 acre Rancho Santa Gertrudes for a mere \$60,000. In 1873, a 96-acre parcel of the plot became the central district of a community called "Downey City," an area with a favorable climate, fertile soil and abundant water sources.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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<sup>cxxv</sup> In his address to October 1873 address to the Irrigating Convention John Downey said “*I suggest that the Commonwealth assert its jurisdiction over every stream in the State, and enact such equitable laws as will extend their usefulness to their utmost capacity. The riparian, or proprietary rights, maintained in England and recognized in many of our States as the law governing rivers and streams, do not apply to California.*”

<sup>cxxvi</sup> **Los Angeles Streetcar Line**

AN #ORDINANCE amendatory of and supplementary to an ordinance entitled ‘An ordinance granting a franchise for street car railroad in the city of Los Angeles to John G. Downey, O. W. Childs and John M. Baldwin’, approved September 28th, 1874,

<http://www.erha.org/railwayhis.htm>

<sup>cxxvii</sup> **Article by John Downy for The Overland Monthly for June, 1874**

If California is not at present, indeed, the favorite grape-growing country of the world, it is destined, certainly, to attain that rank, and also to become the most extensive. Although there are several counties that produce large quantities of grapes, and are largely and successfully engaged in the manufacture of wines, Los Angeles is the oldest and best grape-growing district in the State. There is not a particle of doubt but that the wine interest of California is beginning to assume that vast importance which was foreseen for it by those who have paid attention to the subject.

The grape district of Los Angeles is about twenty miles from the ocean, and extends fifty odd miles through the low-grounds of a net of valleys. The soil is light and deep, middling warm, and although poor in appearance, rich and strong--and probably everlasting. The grape grown in this district is known to have been brought to this country by the Franciscan padres, nearly one hundred years ago, and is called the "Mission," and was formerly of the Malaga variety. The Mission grape is round, like a marble, about three quarters of an inch in diameter, and of a beautiful black when fully ripe, and full of very sweet juice, but little meat, and may be eaten, skins and all, in preference to any other production.

In the production of grapes, Semi-tropical California has advantages over all other vineyard countries of the world, and particularly Germany, France and Spain. There are no storms, no frosts, no insects to disturb either the vine, blossom, or fruit. From ten to fifteen, eighteen and twenty thousand pounds of grapes are grown to the acre, according to the age of the vine, which is almost three times as much as can be raised per acre in Ohio or Europe. The labor in Europe and in Ohio is far less simple than in Los Angeles county, but the item is at once counterbalanced by high rates of labor.

The Los Angeles vineyards are planted with cuttings obtained at the January pruning. These cuttings are from vines from three to five years old, and from that portion of the vine that bore

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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fruit the year previous. The vines are planted six feet six inches apart each way, giving about a thousand vines to the acre. In Sonoma, Napa, and other northern counties, eight feet is the usual distance. The holes for planting are generally made with a crowbar, 92 95 two inches deep, leaving two buds upon the vine above the surface. If the ground is dry, the cuttings need frequent irrigation during the first year. The second year they need to be irrigated but once or twice. The third year the vines begin to bear, averaging from three to six pounds each, but sometimes yielding from ten to twelve. The sixth year the vine is in full growth and full bearing order, but still improves up to its sixtieth year, when it begins to decay, yet continues to yield until a hundred (and sometimes many more) years old.

The manufacture of wine and brandy, as the reader may readily be aware, constitutes one of the chief features of money-making in Los Angeles county, and is a high branch of agriculture, as it is technically considered. The manufacture of wine commences about the first of October, or as soon as the grape shall obtain complete ripeness, which may be tested by pulling the fruit from the stem and leaving no juice upon it. The branches are cut off, and great care is exercised not to injure the fruit until it is ready for the press, when the bunches are cut from the branch, and the ripe, sound grapes selected from the unripe and rotten ones, and passed through a sieve, leaving the stems and leaves above.

There are, as is well known, two natural colors to wines--the white and the red. The white wine is the first and most natural. To make white wine, the pulp is pressed and removed so soon as the process of washing or pressing has ceased; if the wine is to be red, the pulp is kept standing from five to ten days, thus permanently communicating to the juice the coloring of the skin and meat.

<sup>cxxviii</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral\\_of\\_Saint\\_Vibiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_of_Saint_Vibiana)

<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/la/historic/vibiana.html>

Mr. and Mrs. Downey contributed generously to the construction fund to build Saint Vibian's Catholic Cathedral located on South Main Street, Los Angeles. The cathedral is located across the street from where the Downey family home was. Funeral services for both Maria and John Downey were celebrated here.

*Note: I was able to gain access to the interior of the building last year and took some photos which are a part of this package.*

<sup>cxxix</sup> ***Partial Ranchland Holdings- Warner Ranch***

Hill (#Warner's Ranch, 143-144, 149, 153), writes, "By about 1875, the entire rancho, one part after another, passed into the hands of Louis Phillips and John G. Downey, and later [April 1880] to Downey alone. Hill said that in 1880 Downey possessed 10 leagues of land; four from the Portilla grant and six from the Warner grant. (One league of land = 4428 acres) 44,280 acres total.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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In 1880, John G. Downey became sole owner of Warner's Ranch. Travelers had been coming to the hot springs in increasing numbers and in 1894, Downey began issuing pamphlets advertising the spa. The first guest cabins were built in 1900, and as the automobile replaced the stagecoach, visitors multiplied with every passing year.

Hill (Warner's Ranch, 143-144, 149, 153), writes, "By about 1875, the entire rancho, one part after another, passed into the hands of Louis Phillips and John G. Downey, and later [April 1880] to Downey alone. Hill said that in 1880 Downey possessed 10 leagues of land; four from the Portilla grant and six from the Warner grant. See Patent, U. S. Government to Juan Jose Warner, 6 January 1880, Book 2, Page 73, San Diego County Recorder's Office; Portilla's land patent of four leagues was issued on 10 January 1880, Patent, 10 January 1880, Book 2, Page 84, San Diego County Recorder's Office. San Diego County Assessment Records from 1871 to 1873, now at the San Diego Historical Society indicate that Downey, Downey & G. A. Hayward, and Downey & Griffin, possessed portions of the ranch.

<sup>cxxx</sup> Los Angeles, being isolated from the rest of the country was very dependent on San Francisco for almost everything except livestock Commerce was conducted between the cities by schooners that ran intermittently and only when there was enough passengers or cargo to justify the effort. It wasn't until the coming of the railroads intercontinental railroad in 1876 that this changes. .

**THE #GOLDEN SPIKE** Engine 25, decorated with national flags, fruits, flowers and greenery, left the old Los Angeles River Station at 9 a.m. on the morning of September 5, 1876. A roster of guests on the excursion train reads like a "Who's Who of Los Angeles" for everyone of any consequence was on that trip. Reports in Los Angeles newspapers stated that 190 and 250 persons were at the banquet held later that evening so it is safe to say that most or all of them were on the train trip. Leading the Los Angeles contingent were: Mayor Prudent Beaudry, ex-Governor John G. Downey, General Phineas Banning, Don Benito Wilson, Col. Benjamin Peel, I.W. Hellman, ex-Sheriff James Burns, Judge Robert W. Widney and Joseph U. Crawford, engineer of the Los Angeles and Independence Railroad.

Los Angeles was very isolated from the rest of the country was dependent on San Francisco for almost everything except livestock Commerce was conducted between the cities by schooners that ran intermittently and only when there was enough passengers or cargo to justify the effort. It wasn't until the coming of the railroads intercontinental railroad in 1876 that this changes.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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<sup>cxxxix</sup> "The division of the United States into two federations of equal force was decided long before the civil war by the high financial power of Europe. These bankers were afraid that the United States, if they remained in one block and as one nation, would attain economical and financial independence, which would upset their financial domination over the world.

<sup>cxxxix</sup> **Final Will.** John Downey left the bulk of his estate to his wife Maria. The bulk of the balance being primarily split between his sisters, Winifred, Eleanor and Annie and his nephew John Downey Harvey. However, by the time he his will was probated all were dead except Eleanor and her son, John Harvey Downey. Accordingly, his estate went primarily to Eleanor with her son getting a considerable portion of the estate.

<sup>cxxxix</sup> At the time, Downey owned a large amount of land east of the Los Angeles River. It was from this holding that the land necessary for the university was donated. He sold one third of his interest in the land to Hellmann, and one third to Childs. They then made this generous donation as a group. The portion needed for the campus was separated, and the balance was then subdivided, and sold by and Downey Land Company and the proceeds used as seed money for the original college buildings.

Downey Hellman and Childs were unanimous in their opinion that a great university would attract people to the area and enhance the value of the surrounding land and the businesses already established there. Their prime motivation was to attract people to the Los Angeles basin and expand commerce.

Three businessmen donated seven-and-a-half acres and 308 lots of land to found a university in Los Angeles. The trio shared the same vision though not the same faith. These liberal-minded benefactors - a German Jew, an Irish Catholic and a Protestant New Englander - helped launch a university that mandated from the start that "no student would be denied admission because of race,

### <sup>cxxxix</sup> ***New Constitution***

The new California Constitution adopted in May 1879 made radical changes in almost every department of the Government. It completely changed the judicial system, and thereby rendered necessary an alteration of almost all the laws relating to civil and criminal procedure. It revolutionized the working, and to a great extent the scope of the legislative department, lopping off special and local legislation, and obliging the objects heretofore obtained by such legislation to be covered by general law. As a part of this revolution, it required a new plan of county, township, and city organization, with the idea partly of forcing the same general laws upon all local governments, and partly of investing such local governments with power to legislate for

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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themselves. But the main underlying spirit of the new instrument was an attack upon capital under the specious name of opposition to monopolies.

Irish born Eugene Casserly (from Mullingar Co, Westmeath Ireland) was also a delegate to this convention and it was he who insisted on the inclusion of a clause that prohibited the State Government from taking on excess debt without a vote of the people.

The "Chronicle" was the only San Francisco daily that supported the New Constitution, which was also supported by the Workingmen's Party, although bitter dissensions had arisen. The "Chronicle" called its ticket the " New Constitution Party Ticket." Kearney in his speeches dubbed De Young and his associates "The Honorable Bilks." The election took place May 7, 1879. The New Constitution was carried by 10,820 majority in a total throughout California of 145,088 votes. It repealed all laws inconsistent with it on January 1, 1880, on which date it may be said to have gone fully into effect. However, it has always been called "The Constitution of 1879."

In San Francisco the new Constitution was defeated by 1592 votes out of a total of 38,034. It is, however, only fair to say that the "Chronicle" and the Workingmen's Party nearly carried it in San Francisco and did carry it in the State

### cxxxv *Workingman's Party*

The Workingman's #Party was established in New York City in 1829 under the leadership of Robert Dale Owen and Frances Wright . Its program included demands for the abolition of imprisonment for debt and for worker's compensation laws. For a while the party was a factor in state and local elections. In the late 1830s a significant number of its members joined the Whig Party. The party was revived in the 1870s by Dennis Kearney in California.

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Note: *Edward T Martin was married to Eleanor Downey,(1828-1928) sister of John Gately Downey the seventh Governor of California.*

**Hon. E. T. Martin** claims a place among the distinguished Irishmen of this Coast, from his success and position. He is a native of Enniscorthy, in Wexford, and the first lessons of patriotism which he learned were impressed in his sensitive mind under the shadows of the celebrated "Vinegar Hill," where the Irish revolutionists made the last stand, for liberty and native land, against the hired soldiery of Britain. Mr. Martin's ancestors, both at the father's and mother's side—the latter of whom were Johnstons—fought on the side of liberty and national independence, and young Martin had repeated lessons from his parents concerning the " lost cause." Seeing no prospect for national independence, Edward Martin, before reaching his majority, emigrated, and his destination was Santiago, in Chili."

There he spent five years in commercial business, for which he was qualified by the education he received at home, and in '49 he determined to come to California. Accordingly, he set out on a



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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sailing vessel and reached San Francisco after a voyage of six months. Having arrived, he lost no time in speculative deliberation, but at once went into mining in Calaveras County, where he soon accumulated a handsome fortune by his enlightened industry. He then made a tour to Ireland, and visited on his return the principal Eastern cities, such as New York, Chicago and St. Louis, and on mature deliberation, concluded that San Francisco was his future home. He has been engaged in commercial pursuits here since 1850, and now he stands forth as one of the most successful Irishmen of the State. We believe he is the largest land-holder of our race in the United States, owning, as he does, over 600,000 acres in one body in Oregon, and about 200,000 in this State.

Mr. Martin is in the prime of life, being about fifty-two years of age, and has a large family, highly educated and instructed under the care of his accomplished wife Eleanor, a sister of Governor Downey. Mr. Martin's appearance indicates the true Irish gentleman, for he has in his physiognomy that mixture of dignity and wit which characterizes the genuine Irishman. He is one of the original founders of the Hibernia Savings Bank corporation, of which, we believe, he is the secretary, and his reputation for integrity and prudence stands first class in this great city. His career should be held up to our young countrymen, as well to admire as to imitate, for it proves what can be done by individual efforts when accompanied by sound principles of integrity, honor and perseverance. Here we behold a young man quitting his native home, where he was carefully reared by his pious parents under the pleasing shadows of the historic hills of his native country, and undertaking a voyage to the opposite side of the globe to better his condition and to raise himself to a position which his native country denied him. And we find him, in little over a quarter of a century, enjoying an independence and property which, in ordinary circumstances, it would take ages to acquire. And all this property and all those riches have been accumulated by honest industry and prudent speculation before that young man becomes aged, infirm or debilitated. If such an example is not worthy of imitation and creditable to our race in California or elsewhere we know not where to find one.

Such is the gentleman whose name is given at the head of this brief sketch, and of whom, we have said so little, from the fact that the innate modesty of his youth still clings to the man and makes him averse to public notice. We feel that we have not done this gentleman justice in this brief sketch, which, though authentic, is far from being full, from the cause alluded to above, namely, his aversion to egotism or praise. But in a book concerning the " Irish Race in California," to omit E. T. Martin or men of his stamp, would be to fall short of what we intended, and to omit what our readers are supposed to expect to find in the pages of such a work.

We cannot say, *ex tino disce omnes*, or that all have had a like success with Martin; but we can say, that it was *possible* for many, if not for all, to have an equal success, if they had only the qualifications, judgment and prudence; which ever distinguished our greatest Irish land-owner, E. T. Martin.

<sup>cxxxvii</sup> President Rutherford B Hayes visited Los Angeles on October 23, 1880.

President Hayes was accompanied by General William T Sherman, and the Sectary of War, Alexander Ramsey. The President was received by Governor John Gately Downey

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The chief entertainment was a country fair in progress at Agriculture Park now known as Exposition Park. President Hayes (1877-1881) thus became to first sitting president to visit California.

<sup>cxxxviii</sup> The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral was a [gunfight](#) that took place at about 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 1881, in [Tombstone](#) , [Cochise County](#) , [Arizona Territory](#) , of the [United States](#) and which is generally regarded as the most famous gunfight in the history of the [American Old West](#) . The gunfight, believed to have lasted only about thirty seconds, was fought between the outlaw [Cowboys Billy Clanton](#) , [Tom McLaury](#) and his brother [Frank McLaury](#) , and the opposing lawmen [Virgil Earp](#) and his brothers [Morgan](#) and [Wyatt Earp](#) , aided by [Doc Holliday](#) acting as a temporary deputy of Virgil. Cowboys [Ike Clanton](#) and [Billy Claiborne](#) ran from the fight, unharmed, but Ike's brother Billy Clanton, along with both McLaurys, were killed. Lawmen Holliday, and Morgan and Virgil Earp were wounded. Only Wyatt Earp came through the fight unharmed. The fight has come to represent a time in [American history](#) when the frontier was open range for outlaws opposed by law enforcement that was spread thin over vast territories, leaving some areas unprotected.

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### THE LATE MRS. JOHN G DOWNEY

From the San Francisco Bulletin, Jan 20

The dreadful accident which occurred on the Southern Pacific Railroad at Tehachapi Summit last night resulted in the death of one of the most estimable ladies of Southern California, in the person of Mrs. John G Downey. Mrs. Downey was a native Californian, belonging to one of the oldest families. She was the only native California lady who, since the admission of the State into the Union, has come prominently before the public in relation to official life. During the two years of Gov. Downey's administration - an administration which is gratefully remembered by the people - she presided over the Executive mansion at Sacramento with rare grace and dignity. She thus became favorably known to the leading citizens of the State. Since the close of Gov. Downey's term of office Mrs. Downey has lived in quiet retirement at their Los Angeles home, beloved by all with whom she came in social and friendly contact. She was possessed of rare charitable disposition, and was an affectionate wife, unusually strong in her devotion of her husband, to whom her shocking and sudden death is a terrible blow. A multitude will sympathize with him in his affliction and mourn with him over her untimely death.

The New York Times

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Published: February 2, 1883  
Copyright The New York Times

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### Newspaper **report of the death of Mrs. Downey**

<http://theoldentimes.com/cawreck.html>

### ***Tehachapi Train Wreck Disaster***

Downey's life was saddened by a #terrible railroad accident that occurred January 29, 1883. He and his wife were on a southbound train that had stopped at Tehachapi Station, near the summit of the Tehachapi Mountains. The locomotive was detached and was taking on water, when suddenly the train began to move down the slope, gained momentum, and at great speed plunged into a ravine below. The old-fashioned stoves and lamps set fire to the cars. More than 20 people died, and others were crushed and burned. Among those who lost their lives was Mrs. Downey. For years Downey suffered from nervous shock. He died in his home in Los Angeles about 10 years later.

During the time period 1883-1886, he suffered from ill health and spent a lot of his time with his sisters in San Francisco until he remarried.

Although he traveled around the world afterwards and eventually resumed control of his business activities his life was never the same again.

There is a great irony in the fact that the accident that was to change his life so completely occurred in the Tehachapi Mountains. It was through his efforts that The Big Four (The Big Four #, Collis Huntington, Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker and Mark Hopkins) brought their Central Pacific Railroad to Southern California via that rout.

On January 20, 1883, a Los Angeles-bound train stopped at the Tehachapi Station at about 3 a.m. A strong, cold wind was blowing through the snowy pass. The engine was detached for purposes of going ahead for water and the conductor went into the station to make a report. The brakeman, in his haste to accompany a young lady from the train to the station, forgot to fix the brakes. The wind started the stationary cars to move down the heavy grade. When the conductor came out of the station, the cars were already moving down the track. By the time any of the passengers had any idea that something was not right, the cars had obtained tremendous velocity and leap the tracks into a ravine. Heaped into a crushed mass, onboard lamps and stove-fires set the pile of splinters on fire. Surviving passengers crawled out of the debris in nightclothes and attempted to rescue as many as they could. Among the survivors was former California Governor John Downey. No trace was ever found of his wife. The accident claimed the lives of 22 people.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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\*Other reports state that Mrs. Downey's remains were identifiable only by the jewelry she was wearing.

Originally from the Luther A. Ingersoll Historical Collection.

Summary Photograph of Don~a María Jesus Guirado, daughter of Raphael and Vicenta Urquides Guirado. In 1852, María Jesus Guirado of Los Nietos married John Gately Downey, a native of Ireland. Mrs. Downey, a prominent member of Spanish-California Society and Indian-Mission worker, was killed in a train wreck at Tehachapi Pass in 1882. Her body was never found.

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To fully understand the impact that Maria's death had on John Downey, it is important to keep certain facts in mind.

1. Maria was deathly afraid of traveling by train and preferred to travel by boat instead. The governor had persuaded her to take this particular train ride against her better judgment.
2. John Downey himself in 1872 had negotiated the railroad rout through the Tehachapi Mountains where the accident occurred.
3. He heard her screams for help as she burned to death, and was helpless to save her
4. Her remains were initially misidentified and sent to San Francisco. When this mistake was discovered a special train was dispatched to bring her back to Los Angeles.

It's not clear and very probable that her remains were never recovered, and that she was totally incinerated.

John did not return to Los Angeles for three years following her death. His nephew John Downey Harvey managed his affairs in his absence. He was fifty-six year old when this tragedy occurred.

The remains of all of the Downey's, Patrick, John, Eleanor, Annie, their respective spouses, their children, and even their grandchildren, are interred in Holy Cross Cemetery, just south of San Francisco. Noticeable missing is Maria. This fact more than anything else suggests that indeed her remains were never recovered.

cxlii . *"I lost my wife in the Tehachapi disaster and also had several ribs broken myself and my constitution shattered from which I never fully recovered. After that I did not return to Los Angeles for nearly three years, going around the world in the mean time."*

On his around the world journey a male servant and, a medical doctor accompanied John The doctor, Dr. John Downey McFarland, was the son of his partner in the first pharmacy in Los

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Angeles, James Porter McFarland. Doctor McFarland died shortly after returning to his home. He was unmarried.

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In September of 1885, John embarked on a journey around the world, which *may* have included a visit, to the place of his birth, Castlesampson, County Roscommon, Ireland. There is no mention anywhere that he visited Ireland but he may have done so. The Governor was accompanied on this trip by Doctor John Downey McFarland, the son of his partner in the first pharmacy in Los Angeles. Doctor McFarland died shortly after returning to the USA. He had never married.

*Note: I talked to decedents of James McFarland and they have in their family archives mementos from the John Downey, Dr. John Downey McFarland's. adventure. There is nothing there to suggest that they went to Ireland. GO" S*

cxliv John Downey submitted autobiographical information to Hubert Howe Bancroft in 1888. Included in this information is a description of how the City of Anaheim was named for Annie Downey. Bancroft further expanded on this subject in his finished work.

### cxlv **Inscription on the grave marker for Rosa Downey.**

ROSA VINCENTCIA

Beloved wife of

J G Downey

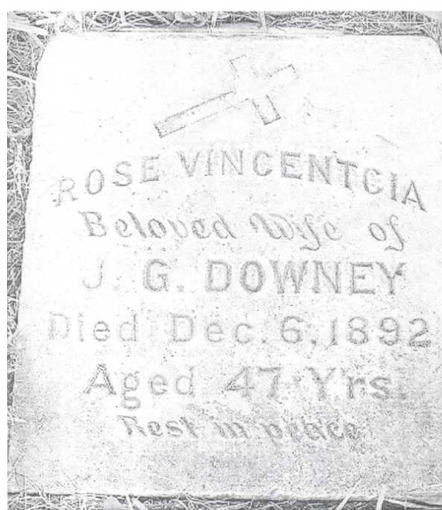
Died Dec. 6, 1892

Aged 47 Yrs.

Rest in peace

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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### *The #Inscription from John Gately Downey's Headstone*

SACRET TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
JOHN G DOWNEY  
SEVENTH GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA  
BORN JUNE 24 1827  
CASTLESAMPSON COUNTY ROSCOMMON IRELAND  
DIED LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA  
MARCH 1 1894

John Downey died at his home in Los Angeles after a slight attack of pneumonia. His original interment was at Old #Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles, but he was reentered at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, California (San Francisco) when the original burial place was used as a school site. He now rests next to his sister Anna, and her husband, Peter Donahue, sister, Eleanor and her husband Edward Martin, his only brother Patrick, and Eleanor's children. Curiously missing are both of his wives.

The bulk of his estate ended up going to his sister Eleanor, and her son by her first husband, John Downey Harvey.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Eugene Casserly served as a US senator from California, and like the Governor, was born in the Irish midlands, in the town of Mullingar.

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**Donahue, Mrs. Annie;** widow of Peter Donahue, and sister of the late ex-Gov. John G. Downey, died Dec. 12, 1896; a native of Castlesampson County Roscommon of Ireland, aged 60; funeral from St. Mary's Cathedral. Mrs. D. left a vast estate. (See Supplement)

cxlviii At the time of her death, Eleanor Downey Martin was one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest woman in the State of California. In her lifetime she inherited the estate of her first husband, Walter Harvey. She would also inherit the estate of her second husband Edward Martin. When her sister Annie Downey Donahue, died, Eleanor was the principle beneficiary. Her stepsister Winifred Martin left a considerable portion of her estate to Eleanor, as did her brother John G Downey.

Downey Banning & Hellman, the big three. They drove the development of the region after the Civil War.

**Reputation.** *Spalding, "no meeting of public-spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside."*

JGD was the central figure during the most dynamic and important generation in the history of California, the generation immediately following the Civil war. California, and particularly the Los Angeles basin developed and grew as much in that generation as the east coast had in the previous three hundred years. Downey was the driving force behind that effort.

The Downey Block, the first major commercial development in Los Angeles. Among the first tenants, the US Treasury, the US Post office-Center of the city. City hall courts-High rise

Today's City Hall, the Courts, and the Civic Center including and high rise office towers and the Reagan State office building are all built on and around the Downey Block. By building his Downey Block where he did John Downey dictated the future shape and skyline of the city of Los Angeles.

Involved in Harbor development -Rail development in the basin, Brought intercontinental rail to LA\_ Drives the golden spike at completion of that link-water-streetcar-development of communities-banking-oil-ranching Grapes- grapes-oranges-drought sheep- board of Trade

*Excerpted from Hubert Bancroft's, Chronicles of the Builders of the Commonwealth. One of the Kings.*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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*William Spaulding, The history of Los Angeles City and County. Governor Downey was the most prominent political and historical character of the American regime.*

*The Irish Race in California and on the Pacific Coast, By Hugh Quigley.*

Published 1878.

The Big three, the most important and influential men in Los Angeles during the most dynamic and important generation in the history of the state and the region were Downey Banning Hellman

Reputation. *Spalding, no meeting of public spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside. .*

Subdivided Santa Gertrude- first large landowner to do so.

USC - Agricultural Park example of his foresight and vision 1879

City of Downey 1873

Downey the first of only two Irish born governors in US history, the other James Michael Curley. From Oughterard, Co Galway. Gov. of Mass, 1935 to 1937. (Movie, The Last Harrah, starring Spencer Tracy was based on his last campaign.)

Back to LA.

1862 floods followed by years of drought - cattle – sheep

Revered status as first Governor of Calif from SO/CAL

First Bank in Southern California 1886

Farmers and Merchants Bank with Isaias Hellmann

The Big three, Downey Banning Hellman

Reputation. *Spalding, no meeting of public spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside.*



**Chronicles of the builders of the commonwealth: Volume 2**

By Hubert Howe Bancroft

CHAPTER IV.

LIFE OF JOHN G. DOWNEY.

Political Campaign Of 1859—Parentage, Ancestry, And Education— Business Apprenticeship—Journey To California—Early Experience—at Los Angeles—Real Estate And Building—Mrs Downey —Political Career—The Parsons Bulkhead Bill—Opinions Of The Press—Approbation Of The Governor's Policy.

"that character is power," it has been well remarked, " is true in a much higher sense than that knowledge is power." The mere possession of intelligence without the moral worth which should accompany it, of mind without heart, of ability without the safeguards which should control it, are, indeed, powers of themselves, though too often powers for evil. Integrity, uprightness, and a strict regard for truth, or, as an old writer puts it, "that inbred loyalty to virtue which can serve her without a livery," constitute the truest nobility of character, and he who is the possessor of such qualities, when united with force of will, wields an influence for good that cannot fail to leave its impress. Such men come not in troops, not many, perhaps not one in a lifetime, but a single individual, whose moral nature has been fashioned in such a mould, is worth a myriad of the baser sort.

It is a well-known saying that "a man is already of consequence in the world when it is known that we can implicitly rely upon him." And more especially is quality valuable in those who control the state or nation.

It was in the midst of exciting scenes, when on the 14th day of January 1860, John G. Downey took his seat as the governor of California. The most momentous issues of state and nation were at stake. At home the blood set boiling by one of the most notable campaigns of California's political history had not yet cooled, while far away was heard the low rumble of coming civil strife. The spirit of chivalry had not wholly departed. The bowie-knife and revolver were still elements in the formation and maintenance of opinion. The question of slavery was paramount over all. Political parties and personal feeling were alike profoundly moved. All felt that a turning point in the destinies of the nation had been reached.

Champions of their respective parties were the United States senators, David C. Broderick, antiLecompton, or anti-slavery democrat, and William M. Gwin, whose agents managed the pro-slavery division of the democrats. The gubernatorial election of 1859 had returned Milton S. Latham for governor, and John G. Downey lieutenant-governor, over the republican candidates Leland Stanford for governor, and James F. Kennedy for lieutenant-governor. Broderick and Gwin had both come on from Washington

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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to take part in the canvass, which became very heated and early threatened bloodshed. A devoted follower of Gwin, and consequently an enemy of his rival, was David S. Terry, judge of the supreme court.

As the campaign proceeded, and the combatants waxed hotter, a quarrel arose between Terry and Broderick, leading to a duel, which resulted in the death of the latter. The seat in the United States senate thus made vacant was filled temporarily by Henry P. Haun; but on the day after Latham's inauguration as governor of California the legislature in joint convention elected him to Broderick's late position, and he at once vacated the executive office, thus constituting John G. Downey the seventh governor of the state.

The man thus elevated to the highest office of the state was a native of Ireland, having been born in his grandfather's house called Castle Sampson, county Roscommon, June 24, 1827. His father's name was Dennis Downey and his mother's Bridget Gately. Among his ancestors were several, as early as the ninth and tenth centuries, distinguished as chiefs, bishops, and abbots. Castle Sampson was a story and a half house, built of cut stone, the material having been taken from an old Norman castle. Dennis Downey was as fine a looking man as the country could boast, standing five feet eight inches in his stocking-feet, and being able to jump into the saddle while the horse was in full run. And he was as strong mentally as physically. The family were all Catholics, and well educated, Governor Downey's grandfather having kept his children at school until they were twenty-one.

The boy John was brought up to work; indeed, few men in America are found having accomplished anything in life who did not learn the lessons of application in early life. All kinds of farm work became familiar to him, haying, ploughing, and raising stock.

After a preliminary education under the eminently practical system maintained in the national schools of Ireland, John came to America, whither two half-sisters had preceded him, in 1842, and attended a Latin school in Maryland under the tuition of a Mr Cochran. He walked three miles to school, carrying his luncheon and books. In his studies his tastes leaned toward the classics rather than toward mathematics.

His sisters desired him to become a priest, in which calling, as I have said, his relatives had been eminent; but John's inclinations were not in that direction, and he was apprenticed to learn the drug business in Washington with John F. Callan. Next he went south, and spent a year in a drug and stationery store at Vicksburg. In 1846 he turned his face westward, pausing for three years at Cincinnati, where he was full business partner with a kind old Scotchman, John Darling. In 1849 he came on to California.

All through his earlier life his mind had been filled with visions of broad acres as the only real and proper foundation for wealth and prosperity ; and although it was the gold excitement which first directed his attention to the Pacific coast, land rather than metal was uppermost in his mind as the ultimate purpose. Darling had endeavored to dissuade him from going to California, but Downey felt that in this favored land he could best achieve his destiny. And it was a rare intelligence that thus early in life led him to rest his fortunes on the substantial property of land rather than give himself up to glittering allurements of gold.

The journey was made by way of the Isthmus, with a little time spent at New Orleans and Habana. From Panamd, his steamer on the Pacific side, the *West Point*, failing to make her connection, he was obliged to proceed on the old store-ship *Sarah* to San Francisco, the voyage occupying eighty-seven days.

Downey had just ten dollars in silver, and a gold watch, when he landed in San Francisco. Of course he must see the mines, if only to take a dose and become sick of them. So he pawned his watch for sixty

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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dollars, went to Sacramento, thence to Marysville and Grass Valley, and after a short experience of working in water up to his knees, and getting little for it, he was satisfied he had enough of it hence returning to Sacramento, he rolled barrels on the levee for passage-money back to the bay. For two weeks he clerked for a Jew, after which he obtained employment in the wholesale drug-house of Henry Johnson & Co. on Dupont street.

With such an experience and such a position most men of that period would have been content; but not so Downey. Gold mining and its more immediate influences and results might do for those more imbued than he with the gambling spirit of the Inferno; for him a broad expanse of good land under a beautiful and beneficent sky was still the dominant idea.

One day he picked up a little paper printed at Los Angeles which gave some account of southern California. His attention was instantly arrested. He read on, made inquiries, and thought, and read again, becoming more and more satisfied that here was what he wanted. Among others on whom he called to ask information was W. D. M. Howard, who knew all about the country.

"What in the world do you want to go there for with your drugs?" Howard asked. "It is the healthiest country in the world."

"Well, tell me how many people are now there," Downey replied, "and I will teach them how to take medicine."

Learning of an invoice of goods shipped to a glutted market from Philadelphia, Downey bought it for twenty per cent less than original cost, and proceeding to Los Angeles he opened a drug-store. This was in 1850. The voyage down by schooner had occupied three weeks, and he walked a good portion of the way from San Pedro to save ten dollars. Such was the entry into Los Angeles of one of its first citizens.

But the country around and beyond, ah! there were the health and beauty satisfying to the heart of the enterprising young man. It was December, and the world was all abloom—I need not pause here to describe Los Angeles in December.

Downey at once found a business associate in Dr McFarland of Tennessee, and they made a fine showing with their \$1,800 of stock on the property owned by B. D. Wilson. It was then the only drug store between San Francisco and San Diego, and people used to come all the way from Sonora for medicines. At the end of three years Downey had thirty thousand dollars.

He then sold out the drug-store and engaged in cattle and sheep raising. He was now in his element, besides being on the highway to fortune. We cannot help being struck by the singular foresight, amounting almost to inspiration, which prompted a young ambitious man to leave the exciting scenes attending gold-mining up the Sacramento, the speculations of commerce and real estate in San Francisco, and also a remarkably prosperous business career in Los Angeles, and bury himself in the country amid his lands and herds. But so it was, although it took some others two or three decades to see the wisdom of it.

When Downey prophesied that ere long Los Angeles would be a city of 40,000 inhabitants, the centre of education and refinement for all this wide section, he was laughed at. But he went his way, following the bent of his rare intelligence. He bought land all around where the city of Downey now is, in the vicinity of Wilmington and San Pedro, and elsewhere, until in the end his acres numbered 75,000, besides a large

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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amount of city property. His Santa Gertrudes rancho, adjoining the Stearns rancho, is renowned for its beauty and wealth of resource, and for its mineral hot springs. He delivered addresses and wrote articles tending to advance the well-being of the country. He published a pamphlet on the peculiar advantages here offered, which was distributed near and far. With mind and heart full of the substantial charms of climate and soil, he discussed the attractive features of the country in his graphic and cogent style, which had a marked effect in bringing about the present prosperous state of things. He was always first among those who took practical and business-like steps toward the accomplishment of this end. He was in favor of a division of the state, believing that the northern and southern sections had not that identity of interests that warranted their remaining politically together. He was the first to cut up his land into small tracts, selling it at ten dollars an acre, and giving the buyer ten years in which to pay for it. This was the very beginning of the prosperity of the country. The colony at Anaheim was the result of these enlightened and far-reaching measures, the founders being entertained and encouraged by him, and the place being named in honor of his sister. The first important building in Los Angeles was the Downey block, begun in 1869. The site was selected as the assured centre, whichever way the town might grow. It cost \$16,500, and he had ten years in which to pay for it. He erected one part and then another, finishing it up as the rents came in. He had no architect or contractor, but superintended it all himself, the work being done by the day. Governor Downey was first married in 1852 at Los Angeles, to Miss Guirado, a native of Los Angeles county, and daughter of Don Rafael Guirado, who came from Sonora and settled here in 1835. Mrs. Downey possessed much grace and charm of manner, and sustained the high position she was called upon to fill at the state capital with courtesy and dignity. She was also distinguished at Los Angeles for her piety and benevolence; and on the occasion of her sad death, which occurred in an accident on the Southern Pacific railway, near Tehachapi, January 20, 1883, many eloquent and heartfelt expressions of sorrow from her wide circle of acquaintances testified to the high place she had occupied in their esteem. Her wedded life was unblest with children, and she was especially kind to the orphan. Governor Downey was on the same train, and suffered in the disaster by having several ribs broken, and his constitution so shattered that he has never entirely recovered. To his present wife, Rosa V. Kelley, he was married in the spring of 1888.

Men who, like John G. Downey, while building up themselves are building up the commonwealth, who, while achieving fortune, are assisting in laying broader and deeper the foundations of the state and nation, of liberal ideas and free institutions, hardly realize the grandeur of their position, or the proud possibilities flowing from them and their work. Look along the annals of our country, and see how certain instances the character and actions of men have affected the destinies of the people. In the development of our coast the story is told of a certain miner who, from disappointment and loss of courage under failure, poisoned his family and killed himself, his successor in the mine finding a million-dollar deposit only three feet from where the suicide ceased his labors. Such is failure, and such the corresponding influence of success.

Entering more fully into the analysis of the personnel and character of Governor Downey, we find a man five feet six inches in height, of square build, fair complexion, his present white hair being once auburn, hazel eyes, deep and keen, manner courteous, and with a quick and concise speech. Possessed naturally of a strong intellect, he has ever thought for himself, and has been guided along the intricate pathway of his life by honorable aspirations and an enlightened conviction.

Some have a genius for plunging at once into the heart of a proposition, while others, having a less firm grip upon their faculties, arrive at results step by step through infinite toil, and by the severest mental or physical effort. Governor Downey's maxim through life has been to follow his first honest impulse; not that it was deemed infallible, but as something not to be departed from without sufficient reason. When

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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differing from others, as he was often called upon to do, he had always a reason satisfying to himself, though not always feeling obliged to express it. He has ever been held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens and associates, and is regarded as the father of latter-day development.

His manner is dignified, yet genial and hearty, and he possesses agreeable conversational gifts. He is unaffected and outspoken in his opinions, has the faculty of making and keeping friends, and is a generally popular man among the large number of those who know him. He has great reason to be proud of his record, which may stand forth for all time an honorable one in all respects. As governor he served the state faithfully, honestly, and with distinguished ability ; regardless of private or partisan ends, he looked to the good of the whole people, and brought honor upon his state and upon himself. In private life the governor's career has been one of marked success, and his character irreproachable. It is such men as Governor John G. Downey to whom California owes the tribute of everlasting gratitude for disinterested, whole-souled devotion to her best interests, and her consequent preeminence among her sister states. As a

private citizen his life has been identified with the important interests of California, He is conspicuous among the pioneers and builders in a new land—men who lay the foundation for civilization, and whose spirit and handiwork are recognized in the superstructure so long as they live. But it has been the fortune and honor of Governor Downey to have his name written in letters of gold on the pages of California's record as the conservator of public weal.

His charities have been constant and munificent, and not confined to sect or creed. " When the university of southern California was projected," he says, "I donated to them property in Los Angeles which would probably bring a million dollars at the present time. The catholic bishop sent for me and wanted to know if I had left the church. I told him no, but that the work these men were doing was just as acceptable in the sight of God as the work of our church, and that I had already done a great deal for the Catholics here and at San Bernardino, giving them land and money."

He was ever interested in the public affairs of state and nation. When a boy at school, by association he was inclined to be a whig in sentiment, but after he had thoroughly examined the course of the democratic party, and noted how it fought for the constitution, he forthwith took his stand on that platform, where he has remained ever since, though often voting an independent ticket. He has filled many offices of honor and trust besides that of governor, among them the collectorship of the port of San Pedro, councilman, and member of the assembly. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers and Merchants bank.

When he took his seat as governor he was but thirty-two years of age. It had been arranged beforehand that Latham should retire, and that he should be installed governor. He was president of the senate and lieutenant-governor but for five days. Though young in years when he became chief executive of the state, his administration was marked by maturity of judgment. A leading editor of the day thus writes: " Downey won the gratitude of the friends of a free press by pocketing a bill concerning libel, intended to punish for their outspoken, honest editorials certain papers at the bay that lashed the treasury thieves into continuous fury. The gratitude of the bay city people toward the Los Angeles apothecary, who played the part of governor so much better than any of his predecessors had done, was unbounded. There was nothing they would not have given him, but that his southern proclivities drew him toward the close of his term upon a rock which in stormy times no craft could graze without serious damage."

Indeed, he but expressed the opinion of the people when on the 8th of January 1862, in yielding the executive chair to his successor, Leland Stanford, he inscribed in the annals of the state: " Every

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department of the government has been conducted in such a manner as cannot fail to give confidence and satisfaction to the people. The appropriations made by the legislature have been faithfully disbursed for the objects for which they were intended, and in strict conformity with the requirements of law."

Surrounding this legislature was a strong lobby, which made its presence felt by all; but the governor, who had entered upon his duties with a modest depreciation of his abilities, displayed throughout executive powers of no mean order. While ever vigilant, he was not arbitrary; with broad views and serene temper, he held the scales of justice with a steady hand.

Concerning a bill introduced by Dr I. S. Titus, proposing to allow certain counties to retain the state's portion of the foreign miners' license tax, etc., in his veto the governor said : " We have been for years trying to arrive at a cash paying basis, and now that the object has been accomplished, and the people gratified with the results, you are about to return by lavish and unheard-of appropriations to our former state of bankruptcy. I consider this bill unjust, and wanting in good faith to the other counties of the state. It is time this system of legislation was arrested."

On the 29th of March, 1861, the governor vetoed a bill by Watt, to incorporate the town of Grass Valley, which provided that the people, by vote, at a formal election, should have power to impose on the property of the town such rate of taxation as they might desire. The governor declared that " it was never the intention of the framers of the constitution to give this unlimited\* power of taxation to the people; that power is wisely vested in the legislature, and cannot be transferred without constitutional restrictions. I regard this bill as clearly unconstitutional."

In refusing to sign a city toll-road bill the governor, referring to the map, said, "It will be seen that a toll-gate is attempted to be placed almost in the very heart of the city regardless of any expression of the will of the property-owners and residents along the route, or of first obtaining the consent of the board of supervisors. I regard every toll-gate on roads or streets leading to or from San Francisco as objectionable, not only to the residents of the city, but also to those having business to transact in our commercial metropolis. The board of supervisors should be empowered to get possession of these roads and maintain them as public highways. In their present condition they can only be looked upon as public nuisances."

But the act of all others which crowned his political career with fadeless glory was that which defeated the vile purposes of a band of schemers having an eye of evil intent on the commercial prosperity of San Francisco. It was called the Parsons Bulkhead bill, introduced in the legislature in 1860 by Titus, proposing to grant to the San Francisco Dock and Wharf company', composed of Levi Parsons, John Crane, H. S. Gates, J. Mora Moss, Abel Guy, John Nightingale, and John B. Felton, the syndicate being represented in San Francisco by the firm of Pioche, Bayerque & Co., the right to build upon the water line of 1851 a bulkhead or seawall, with piers, wharves, and docks, with the right to collect tolls, etc., and also appropriate to themselves any lands, wharves, or franchise rights along the line belonging to the city, and take possession of any private property on making compensation therefore, thus securing for fifty years control of the water front of the city of San Francisco from Black point to Mission bay.

In stating his objections the governor said: " After giving this bill the most careful consideration in all its details, I am led to the irresistible conclusion that its provisions are not only in conflict with the constitution and the principles of natural justice, but that the measure, as a whole, is calculated to work irreparable injury to our commerce, internal and external, of which San Francisco is, and must ever remain, the metropolis. . . . There is no public object contemplated by the present bill but what has been already provided for by the various enactments referred to; and the franchise which it proposes to confer upon the

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Dock and Wharf company has, by a previous grant, been irrevocably disposed of. The right to construct the front streets or to build a bulkhead, with the necessary wharves, piers, and docks, with the right and duty to provide for the repair and regulation of these works, including the right to collect and fix the rates of wharfage, tolls, and dockage, has heretofore been granted to the city and county of San Francisco, though not in the same words adopted in this bill, yet in terms not less comprehensive and effectual. Assured by such legislation, the city has heretofore constructed wharves for the accommodation of commerce, under various contracts, which, in several cases, were defectively executed, have been confirmed by special legislative acts. The wharves have been leased out for terms of years, which, in most cases, will expire in 1862. The rents of some of them are placed under the control of the commissioners of the funded debt of 1851, and are sacredly pledged for the payment of the city indebtedness. I do not intend to intimate an opinion that under existing legislation the city and county of San Francisco is invested with the exclusive right to build wharves and collect wharfage except outside of the water front; nor but that under the present, or any constitutional legislation on the subject, the entire water front of San Francisco would be as free to those engaged in trade as the seashore, or any public highway in the state, subject only to such regulations as the city or state in the exercise of the necessary powers of government independent of any right of property may think proper to impose, for the benefit of trade or the maintenance of public order. It would doubtless be the true policy of the state to maintain that freedom to the fullest extent to which it now exists. In the adoption and maintenance of this policy, the disposition and interest of San Francisco, as well as the state at large, would be in perfect harmony. This bill then attempts to divest and impair the rights of property growing out of previous acts of the legislature, which are to be regarded as contracts. The bill also empowers the Dock and Wharf company to take and appropriate private property, not for any such public use as contemplated by the constitutional provisions on the subject, but to facilitate a private enterprise, and augment the profits of its stockholders. I regard the bill, therefore, as plainly repugnant to section 10, article 1, of the federal constitution, and to section 16, article 1, of the constitution of this state. The state, on the ground of the highest policy, as well as of natural justice, should regard its faith in whatever form given, and the rights of private property, as inviolable. The habitual disregard of the one or the other would destroy industry, and arrest all useful progress. Property, legitimately acquired, is the product and reward of labor. If it be not secure, men will not work for it, and universal indolence and crime will succeed. Besides the unconstitutionality of the measure under consideration, I deem it my imperative duty to withhold the executive sanction for other reasons not less cogent. On any ordinary grounds of state policy I should defer to the opinions of a majority of the two houses of the legislature ; but when a proposed measure is calculated, as I believe this is, to bring upon the state great and irreparable injury, I conceive it my duty to assume the responsibility, and arrest it. Monopolies are odious; they are especially repugnant to the genius of our government, and to the habits and opinions of our people. They are to be tolerated only in cases of great necessity, a condition which does not exist with respect to the objects proposed by this bill. The value of the franchise which it grants, and which has been sought with great avidity for nearly five years, has been estimated at several millions of dollars, and it has been reasonably calculated that the net receipts of the existing wharves at the expiration of the present leases, say in 1862, will amount to half a million of dollars annually. All this is donated to the Dock and Wharf company. With the income arising from the profits granted, without any additional capital, the company might probably build the contemplated works, as the city or state might do, if those funds were retained. In the latter case the work would be public property, and the income would go into the public treasury. In return for these large and perpetually increasing revenues, what does the state receive ? Five per cent of the gross amount realized by the Dock and Wharf company to be placed to the credit of the state school fund. In effect, the company refunds, for school purposes, a very small portion of the donation. It receives from the state \$100, and gives back \$5 out of the amount received. It would afford some relief to those who bear the burdens of the government to get back even that small portion of what the state parted with without consideration; but this five per cent is necessarily made an additional tax upon commerce, and in case the state or city should repurchase, or the works revert, every dollar

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thus received into the school fund would have to be repaid to the Dock and Wharf company with interest. The Dock and Wharf company once invested with the franchise and revenues granted by this act, if it should become a law, would in a short time, by means of its vast capital and exclusive privileges, be able to control, to a great extent, the commerce, as well as the legislation and policy of the city and state. It would, by degrees, monopolize every important branch of trade. It might use its power to control the market, producing an inflation or depression as its interests might dictate. Thousands of laborers, constantly depending upon the company or its policy for employment, might at any time, to secure its purposes, be deprived of their only means of subsistence. The power and influence of this company would also, in time, procure a removal of all restrictions, and the right of repurchase or reversion contained in this bill would be compromised and surrendered. The franchise would then be perpetual in terms, as under this bill it is now in effect. No greater injury could be inflicted upon the state than to expose her commerce to the domination of such an establishment. San Francisco herself would suffer less by it than the producers and consumers of other parts of the country, who would be dependent on her market. The burdens imposed would fall chiefly upon them, but all alike have a common interest in the establishment and maintenance of free trade."

All over the state the public journals rang with the praises of Governor Downey. One says : "California has reason to be proud of the man now filling the executive chair. Through all the conflict of public opinion, through the heat and beyond the influence of sectional political organizations, through the spirit of partisan feeling, and against the moneyed power and pressure at the capital for the passage of fraudulent schemes of legislation, he has stood bold and firm, like a skilful mariner guiding the helm of the ship of state. His record will be a moving power in the hearts of the people, and a monument to the man who has on every occasion rebuked the importunities of political tricksters and self-constituted party leaders, and who dared to do right in the honest discharge of his whole duty."

Another remarks on his message: "It is a clear, practical document. His style is such as to elicit a desire for cool discussion, not angry debate." And thus a public body; "Whereas John G. Downey, governor of the state of California, by his firm and fearless conduct officially displayed during the last session of the legislature of the state, in opposition to the acts of that body detrimental to the rights and interests of our city, has merited the approbation and gratitude of the people of San Francisco; therefore resolved that we, the board of supervisors of the city and county of San Francisco, hereby tender our sincere and fervent thanks to his Excellency, and that the president of the board of supervisors be requested to transmit to him a copy of this resolution."

Privately the governor remarked upon the subject: "Levi Parsons came to see me about the Bulkhead bill, and I gave him to understand at once that he need not talk to me about it; and I put him down. ' It takes a man of some ability,' I said to him ' to distinguish himself in the senate, but any man with the right heart in the right place can make a good governor.' And I further told him that I thought I was the right man in the right place. Said Parsons, ' I am a man who will go round the world once for a friend, and twice for an enemy. Said I, ' as my time is precious, you had better start on your journey for the enemy, for I propose to put down that bill.'"

Turn, finally, to the pages of contemporaneous history, and see how the public measures of Governor Downey are recorded there. "Latham, having achieved the object of his ambition, resigned the reins of state government to John G. Downey, lieutenant governor, a man without political history or experience, but not destined to be without a popularity, especially in San Francisco, quite new to chief executives in California. The legislature shaped its labors mainly with the view of securing all the patronage possible for the democratic party, that it might go with reasonable expectations into the presidential election of the coming fall. It passed bills for the inspection of beef and pork, and multiplied licenses, not so much for revenue purposes, or because those staples needed inspection, as because favorites and men skilled in the tactics of primary conventions wanted paying places. It crowned its unwelcome labors with an act authorizing substantially the joint wharf companies of San Francisco to build a seawall, or bulkhead, along the city front, and to take toll of all that passed it into the city for fifty years to come; meanwhile mocking the state with the tender of the reserved right to buy the work on completion at cost and ten per cent yearly



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interest. It was a barefaced imposition of a heavy tax on commerce for the benefit of speculators, which San Francisco resented with profound indignation.

"Now it had been claimed that Latham was pledged against the scheme, and that, knowing he could not be moved to favor it, he was sent to the senate by the bulkheaders' influence, to get him out of the way. If so they calculated without their true host. Governor Downey lacked experience, but not resolution, and when the enrolled bill went to him for the executive sanction he vetoed it.

" The bulkheaders were boiling with wrath; San Francisco went into ecstasies. The citizens demanded a visit from the little governor of Irish birth and iron backbone, and when he reluctantly consented, they met him at the Sacramento boat with a torchlight procession that shamed every precedent in that line. They escorted him to his temporary residence with music, and banners, and cheers, through streets illuminated with bonfires, costly pyrotechnics, and transparencies, exhibiting mottoes of welcome, and with rockets, roman candles, and triumphal arches over the route."

nation, of course, over shadows his other accomplishments, but they are worthy of mention. Those include, as Governor, Downey stated in his January 7, 1861 State of the State address to the legislature: "commencement of our State Capitol, the State Reform School, at Marysville, the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Asylum, at San Francisco, the increased donations to the Orphan Asylums and other objects of charity, the Boundry Survey, the Geological Survey and the increased appropriation for the Insane Asylum."

In addition to establishing the State Library, Downey worked closely with the federal government, which had donated seventy-two land grants in California, in the establishment of "Common Schools" (i.e. public schools) and a "University." In sharp contrast to today's proponents of the 'voucher system' which would eliminate any meaningful public education, Downey told the State Legislature that:

"It may be safely affirmed that a general system of education, whereby the children of the poor as well as the rich are afforded access to the portals of science and literature, is the most necessary of all the supports to the edifice of civil liberty. To say nothing of the philanthropy of the work of training the minds of the children of the State to the principles of virtue and the refining influences of intellectual culture, it has ever been conceded that republican institutions depend for their existence entirely upon the virtue and intelligence of the people."[25]

Downey also played an important role in promoted the agricultural development of California. He supported the state's agricultural societies and took measures to encourage the cultivation of cotton, which has become a major product in the state, as well as, flax and corn.

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TRANSCRIPT OF JGD  
NOTES TO BANCROFT  
1888

GOVERNOR JOHN G. DOWNEY

I was born in Roscommon County, Ireland, on the 24th of June 1827. My father's name was Dennis Downey, and my (grand?) father was Jack Downey, known as 'Honest Jack'. My mother's name was Bridget Gateley. I went to school from my grandfather's house to an ordinary country school before the establishment of the national school system. The people of that section were farmers and stock raisers, as were my relations, although some of them were in business in various parts of Ireland. They were always well to do until late years when they became broken down. Father was as fine a looking man as there was in the county. He stood five feet eight inches high in his stocking feet, and I can recollect seeing him jump into the saddle on a horse on full jump. The Gateleys were of rather delicate constitution. Father was a strong man mentally as well as physically. They were educated people, and grandfather kept his children at school until they were 21 years old. They were all Catholics, except the Johnsons on my Mother's side. The Downeys have always been Catholics. I was born in my grandfather's house known as Castle Sampson. The material of which the house was built was taken from an old Norman castle, and the barn was also made from the same. The material was cut stone, and it was a story and a half house. As a boy I did every kind of work on the farm, in the hay field and plowing. That was a good thing for me. It always made me satisfied wherever I went with what I got to eat. Porridge and milk was good enough for me. I came to America in 1842 and went to Charles County Maryland where I attended a Latin school under John Cochran. I went to school there one year. It had been the idea of my sisters that I should become a priest but the idea did not suit me. My experience in boyhood largely aided me in after life. The great men of this country today with but a few exceptions are all self-made.

In my studies at school I always liked the Classics best, and did not take very well to mathematics. My ambition then was "broad acres" and stock. After leaving school I began to learn the druggist business on the corner of 2nd and E streets in Washington, D. C. opposite the general postoffice. After I got disgusted with Washington and saw no chance there to get ahead I went South and spent a year at Vicksburg, being in business there with C. O. Woodburn, carrying on a drug and stationery business. From there I went to Cincinnati and was in business there three years on the corner of 6th and Fremont streets, with John Darling, an old Scotchman who was very kind to me and made me a full partner.

In 1849 when the gold excitement broke out, I told him I would never be worth anything there and was bound to go west. He told me it was the biggest bubble the world had known and would soon burst but I had confidence in it and was determined to go to California. I felt there was something better for me out West. I made the voyage via the Isthmus, spending some little time in New Orleans and Havana, enroute. Arriving at Panama the steamer West Point did not come and we feared she had been wrecked, and the American Consul there, Mr. Caldwell fitted up an old store ship called the Sarah, and we embarked on that, two of my fellow passengers being Judge Porter and Major Solomon, after wards U.S. Marshall in San Francisco. It took us 87 days to get to San Francisco.

San Francisco was then a town of tents. There were some few adobe houses on the Plaza, and on Merchant's street were a couple of frame buildings. I think a man named Johnson, a gambler, had a brick house on the corner of Washington street and the Plaza. I went on to Sacramento, and from there went to Marysville into the Grass Valley mining district. A short experience mining, in water up to my knees, and I told my friends I had enough of mining.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

When I arrived in California I had just ten dollars in silver and a gold watch. I had pawned the watch for sixty dollars, which I used in getting to the mines and back again. After reaching Sacramento from the mines I rolled barrels along the wharf for a time and made a little raise, and then went to San Francisco.

I clerked a couple of weeks for an Isrealite, and then clerked a time for Henry Johnson & Company on Du Pont street. I picked up a little paper one day published in Los Angeles, giving some account of Southern California, and it took my eye and I came down here in 1850. The trip on a schooner occupied three weeks, and after landing at San Pedro I walked up to town to save ten dollars. Los Angeles was the most pock marked city you ever saw. There were only two two story buildings, one where the temple block now stands, two story adobes with a corridor in front, and the other was in Nigger Alley, owned by the Sanchez family. They were not good buildings but they had the ambition to be two storied. There were not six rooms in the town that had board floors. But the country was lovely. The month was December and the flowers were in bloom, and the appearance of the whole country was most beautiful. I made up my mind to stay here. I went right into the drug business with Dr. McFarland of Tennessee, on property owned by B. D. Wilson. We had a well selected stock, in which we had about \$1800, but we made a big showing with it. We kept up the business for three years and I had thirty thousand dollars. We had the only drug store between San Francisco and San Diego and they frequently sent up from Lower California and Sonora for drugs. I then went into the -----(something missing) and published a small pamphlet on the peculiar advantages which were offered here, and we distributed these everywhere, putting them on board of every steamer and railroad train we could reach in the east. It was printed in an attractive form and attracted much attention here. I was the very first to begin cutting up my land into small tracts, and I gave ten years time for it to be paid for, selling it at ten dollars an acre. That was the very beginning of the prosperity of this country. The city of Downey is named after me; I owned pretty much all the land around there. Anaheim was named in honor of my sister. Messrs Frohling and Kohler who started the colony were at my house a great deal and we entertained them handsomely and that is the way that came about. I started the Downey Block in 1869, which was the first important building here. It is just the same now as it was then. I picked that location because I saw it was sure to be the center of the town no matter which way it grew. It cost \$10,000, and I had ten years to pay it in. I would put on one end and then the other and then from time to time finish it up as the rents came in. I oversaw the whole thing and never had an architect or a contractor about it, but had all the work done by the day.

As soon as Warner's Rancho was offered for sale I began buying every piece of land I could get hold of. I got the Warner Rancho containing 46,000 acres, with Hot Sulphur Springs on it. Then I began to stock it, first in company with Hancock Johnson and later on by myself. I suppose I now own sixty or seventy-five thousand acres of land in various tracts, but I have no ambition to own it. I shall it out so that it will benefit the country.

My first vote for President was for Franklin Pierce. I have always been a Democrat in politics, though very often independent in my voting. I was first elected to the town council here, and next as a supervisor. I was then elected to the Assembly and next in 1860 as Lieutenant Governor with Latham, and presided over the Senate while Latham was fixing his plans to go to the next Senate, and then I took my position as governor of the state, but it was all understood between Latham and myself before hand. This was in 1860 ten years after I came to the state, at which time I was 32 years old. I felt this way: That a man's first honest impulse is always the best one he has. I found that if I was dissuaded from following out that first honest impulse I lost by it, and so I carried that idea

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into everything I did, although I may have made some mistakes. If things came up that did not suit me I fought them.

Levi Parsons came to see me about the bulkhead bill, and I gave him to understand at once that he needn't talk any to me about it, and I put it down. San Francisco is to-day getting the fruit of that work. I told Parsons that it took a man of extraordinary ability to distinguish himself in the Senate, but any man with the right heart in the right place would make a good Governor. And I further told him that I thought I was the right man in the right place.

Parsons told me he was a man who would go round the world once for a friend and twice for an enemy. I told him that as my time was precious he had better start on the voyage for the enemy, for I proposed to put down the bill. They would have wrecked the whole state if I had not been there. I have of late years avoided politics as much as possible. I was once elected Treasurer of this county but did not take the office. I applied to certain friends of mine, as I supposed, to go as my bondsmen, and they refused, so I turned the office over. During the war I told the secessionists that it was their duty to protect the Union, and I saw that they did so. I offered to take the fields with my volunteers, but the San Francisco men said it would not do, that I must stay at the helm. After my term expired I went into the banking business here in Los Angeles. James A. Hayward put his son in here, but he was dissipated and I had to send him home to his father. The banking business paid well indirectly, as there was no other bank and there was hardly a good thing in the lower country where they wanted money that they didn't come to us. The firm was James A. Hayward & Company for two years, and afterwards I went in with Mr. L. W. Hellman and organized the Farmer's & Merchant's Bank.

I lost my wife in the Tehachepi disaster and also had several ribs broken myself and my constitution shattered from which I have never fully recovered. After that I did not return to Los Angeles for nearly three years, going round the world in the mean time. When the University of Southern California was projected I donated to them property in Los Angeles that would probably bring a million dollars at the present time. The Catholic Bishop sent for me and wanted to know if I had left the church. I told him no but that the work these men were doing was just as acceptable in the sight of God as the work of our church, and I had already done a great deal for the Catholics, all around here and at San Bernardino, giving them land and money.

I was first married in 1852 to Rafael Guarado, a very popular lady, beloved by every one. She was plain and simple, a natural woman. She could entertain with as much ease and dignity as any woman in America. I was married to my present wife, Rosa V. Kelley, in the spring of 1888. Have never had any children.

Personal description: Is 5 ft. 6 inches high; square build; complexion fair; original color of hair Auburn; at present white. Eyes are deep and keen; hazel in color. Manner of address quick, concise and to the point. Very forceful.

Autobiographical data submitted to Hubert ■Howe Bancroft ca. 1888.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Excerpt from, *The Irish Race in California and on the Pacific Coast*, By Hugh Quigley.  
Published 1878, by A Roman and Company.

**Governor John G. Downey's** career as a statesman has been the most successful and brilliant that ever adorned the annals of California. The testimony of all parties, of whatever race or political complexion, is, almost without an exception, that Governor Downey was the most prudent, independent and talented man that ever held the reins of supreme power in this state. We shall presently adduce the evidence of different witnesses testifying to John G. Downey's public and private virtues, in order to put it out of any man's power to insinuate that flattery has had anything to do with the well-merited encomiums which the simple truth compels us to pronounce on his popular administration of the government of this great State. It is Governor Downey's fortune to stand at the head of all our Irish-American statesmen of the present day, and in history, without a doubt, his name will stand next to that of General Jackson, by reason of his unswerving firmness, his disinterestedness, his integrity, and the general appropriateness and popularity of his public acts and messages. He was called to supreme power in a critical time of the commonwealth, and by his firmness and prudence he contributed materially, not only to the prosperity of the State, but most probably to the salvation and integrity of the Republic.

It is a strange but not unusual occurrence in the history of our race that, in eventful times, when dangers threaten or difficulties stand in the way, there and then scions from that " old stock " are called to supreme authority to make sure that "the Republic should suffer no injury,"—*Ne quid detriment Eejpublica capiat*. Then the real heroes are called forth by popular voice, like Hercules, to subdue monsters and conquer tyrants, like Jackson beating back the red-coats at New Orleans or rebuking lurking secession in the South, or Downey vetoing the infamous legislation of a bribed legislature at the bidding of a bloated corporation. Irishmen are always ready to stand in the breach when dangers threaten. They claimed the foremost posts in danger and they got them. 23Before giving a brief biographical sketch of our statesman-Governor we give quotations from several journals of different political views, to show in what high estimation his gubernatorial acts were held by the people of California.

**Gov. Downey.**—" In looking over the vast political sea that has stormed and raged around the interests of our State since its organization, not one of those who guided her helm stands *so pre-eminently before the people* as possessing all the virtues and requirements of a skillful pilot, as he whose name heads this article; for under his control and management, the noble ship of state has touched more closely the haven of peace and prosperity than ever before. Coming into the position he occupies under circumstances of a peculiar nature, he has fulfilled the duties of his high office with such Jacksonian ability; has proven the reputation accorded to him by his personal friends for inflexible honesty and integrity ; has shown his deep and abiding interest in all matters connected with the State, and in his public documents, on matters of policy and otherwise, such purity of thought and language intermingled with a moral expression so impressive, as to win for himself the admiration, respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. All admit his popularity and excellence, and express the belief that no political party can present a name in connection with the next election for Governor that will raise such a shout of approval throughout California, as that of John G. Downey."—*Spirit of the Times* o? Nov. 17th, 1860. Nothing that the most enthusiastic admirer of the Governor could write or say in his praise could

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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exceed the foregoing testimony of an impartial and independent journal in his favor. In reference to the Governor's political message of January 1861, and the sound views of policy which it recommended, the expression of the press is in unison regarding the principles and measures it proposed for legislative action. The *Evening Bulletin* of Jan. 18th said: "*We publish in another page the message of Gov. Downey. The style is unpretending and plain, while there are many sound common-sense recommendations compressed in into few words. It is, however, that portion of the Governor's address which treats of Federal relations, which we think the best feature of, his document. His remarks in that connection are patriotic, sound, and truly Californian. We hope the Legislature will be governed by his counsels, for he undoubtedly speaks the minds of the people.*" This, coming from no friendly source, speaks for itself.

The Sacramento *Union* of same date, says :

*" The Governor's message is a good state paper. Governor Downey speaks like a patriot and a lover of his country, and his whole country. In our judgment, the Governor is eminently sound in his expressed views."*

*"Taken altogether, the Governor's annual message is a creditable production."*—

Marysville *Appeal*.

The Weaverville, Trinity Journal, said: "*California has reason to be proud of the man now filling the executive chair. Through all the conflict of public opinion, through the heat and beyond the influence of sectional political organizations, through the spirit of partisan feeling, and against the moneyed power and pressure at the capital, for the passage of fraudulent schemes of legislation, he has stood bold and firm like a skillful mariner guiding the helm of the ship of state. His record will be a moving power in the hearts of the people, and a monument to the man who has on every occasion rebuked the importunities of political tricksters and self-constituted party leaders, and who dared to do right in the honest discharge of his whole duty.*"

" The daily Stockton *A rgm*, said : "*The Governor's annual message to the Legislature is a clear, practical document. It comes direct to the gist of public affairs. His style is such as to elicit a desire for cool discussion—not angry debate.*"

The testimony of the editors of the press regardless of party politics, is entirely unanimous in esteeming Gov. Downey as the best executive that ever presided over this State of California. He was truly a man of the people, and the right man in the right place ; and had he been influenced by ambition, or coveted political eminence, there is no office in the gift of the citizens that he might not have successfully aspired to.

But it was not on account of his elegantly written messages, overflowing with sound common sense and lucid with practical suggestions and classic phrases, that the Governor became popular; it was because of his *honesty, integrity* and *independence* that he became the idol of the people of California. His having so frequently refused to put his official signature to acts of hasty or vicious legislation, is what elevated him in the estimation of all men to the level of the greatest statesman of ancient or modern times.

Two disgraceful measures had passed both Houses of the Legislature through bribery of a

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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majority of their members. The " Horace Smith Change of Venue Bill " and the " Bulkhead Bill." Both these bills were vetoed by Gov. Downey, when, if he went with the current of a corrupt popular Assembly, he could have put millions into his purse.

The Governor, with a sternness truly Catonian, refused all the overtures of corruption, and imprinted the indelible stigma of his *veto* on the enactments of a bribed Legislature. One Smith had murdered a young man named Newell, and, knowing that the citizens were justly incensed against him, he sought a change of venue, or wished to be tried elsewhere than in San Francisco, where he was known. The bill favoring this criminal's design passed the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor, though it afterwards became a law by a two-thirds vote of the members. The following are the expressions of the press in reference to the Governor's action :

*"As respects Governor Downey, there is no language we can command which will convey our exalted estimate of this good and great man's character. To have withstood the political supplications addressed to him touching this business, to have opposed, with his honest voice, a whole lobby and Senate House, full of his political friends, from honest convictions and impulses of simple justice, ranks him with the noblest latvgivers of antiquity and (he most disinterested and purest of modem times. All honor to the people's protector and defender. All honor to the man that would see the laws equally administered to the rich and the poor, the high and the low."*

The *Alta* said: *"By this act Governor Downey shows that in the discharge of his duties he is influenced by no considerations but those of the public good. The conduct of Governor Downey in this and in many other cases affords a striking contrast to the weakness and wrong-doing of many of his predecessors."*

Another paper, the *Tribune*, said : *" The Governor has done himself immortal honor by his bob I stand against an effort to override law and right, and his action will be sustained by the press and the people everywhere."*

The *Morning Call* said: *" Yesterday Governor Downey performed an act of grace in vetoing the bill ordering a change of venue in the case of Horace Smith, but the measure passed the Senate over the Governor's veto. We shall have it, then, on the records of California, that, in this boasted land of equality, republicanism and universal democracy, there are classes of men more highly favored than are any of the so-called privileged classes of absolute Russia or less absolute Britain. It will be on record that our law-making power will make one law for the poor and another for the rich. Hereafter it may be set down as a fact that the poor man, without friends, who may be accused of crime, is to be visited with all the rigors of the law, while the rich man, with friends at cowt, s will be afforded every possible facility to clear himself of the charges against him. The indignation we feel at such outrages against justice and equality almost impels us to adopt the conviction that secession and the process of dissolving a state of government under which such abuses can be openly practiced and tolerated has not commenced a moment too soon. Certain it is that political corruption has attained a terrific magnitude, and, if not everything Irish, are valuable as the concessions of an enemy in regard to the 2323course and conduct the Legislature proved untrue or lukewarm in regard to our best interests, the Governor*

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came to our aid and saved us from plunder and spoliation. It was eminently fit and proper that our Board of Supervisors should take the method of publicly thanking him—which they did on Monday night. The following are the resolutions:

*'Whereas, John G. Downey, Governor of the State of California, by his firm and fearless conduct, officially displayed during the last late session of the Legislature of the State, in opposition to acts of that body detrimental to the rights and interests of our city, has merited the approbation and gratitude of the people of San Francisco; therefore be it*

*Resolved, That we, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, hereby tender our sincere and fervent thanks to his Excellency, and that the President of the Board of Supervisors be requested to transmit to him a copy of this resolution.'*

*No such tribute as that conveyed in this resolution was ever before paid by this city and county, or any other county in the State, to the executive head of the Government."*

The next and the last testimony we shall introduce in proof of the universal popularity of our fortunate Governor, is the following document, signed by the principal men of business of San Francisco, most of whom had nothing whatever to do with party politics. Here we have the signatures of Irish and native Americans, Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, English, and Scotchmen. Men, also, of all religious creeds; Hebrews, Christians, Catholics, Protestants, as well as of men of no creed, and all coming forth voluntarily with their voice and vote in favor of the integrity and heroic fortitude of the young Governor who was scarcely out of his boyhood, like the shepherd prince of ecclesiastical history when he dared to encounter, and to conquer the monstrous giants of corruption which obstructed the peaceful paths of legislation. The following is the document we refer to:

*" To His Excellency, J. Q. Downey, Governor of California :*

*Sir—The undersigned members of the 'AntiBulkhead Committee' of this city, desire, on behalf of themselves and other citizens, to tender you their most respectful and sincere acknowledgements for the great service you have rendered to the entire State, and especially for the people of San Francisco, by your veto of the Senate bill No. 167j which authorized the 'Dock and Wharf Co.' to erect a wall around our city. In common with the people of the whole State, we recognize in this act of your Excellency the proof of an inflexible determination to tread in the path of duty regardless alike of persuasions, temptations, and menaces; and when we reflect upon the audacity and power of that organization which has guided, if not controlled the legislation of our State, and realize that you have put a stop to its mad career, we are involuntarily reminded of that honest impulse and stern will which made Andrew Jackson the idol of the party to which he belonged, and embalmed his memory in the hearts of the people of the whole Union.*

*But very few of us have any more pecuniary interest in the defeat of this enormous unparalleled scheme than is common to all the citizens of California, who are proud of the State they have helped to build, and are resolved to live on her soil and expect to sleep on her bosom. Yet the danger this measure threatened, not only to commerce, but to the liberties of the people, and to the public virtue ; the principles it involved so subversive of our institutions ; the gloomy shadow*



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*which its gigantic dimensionous flung far into the future, all aroused our fears and conspired to enlist us among its opponents.*

*Some of us are proud to claim our descent from the same 'Green Itle of the Ocean' that gave your Excellency birth, and our hearts warm anew to the memories of that storied land, while we reflect, in this free home of our adoption, that Americans have chosen for Governor a brother Irishman. We crave indulgence if our language is too personal.*

*Our joy and gladness are welling up from bosoms that are stirred to their inmost depths by that deliverance from great peril which we owe to to your official action.*

*We wish you could have seen our city, over which the shadow of this giant monopoly has for months been creeping like the chill and torpor of death, when your hand lifted the threatening cloud, and joy and sunshine lighted up every face. Business was suspended, cares forgotten, men went about congratulating their neighbors, friends embraced and even strangers shook hands.*

*We venture to say that never was a whole community more jubilant. The booming of cannon from many points, the waving of flags, and the cheering of applauding crowds of men, evinced the gladness that beat in the popular heart. And when night came on, in the silence of many a chamber where full hearts were pouring out their joy, upon you and yours were invoked the choicest blessings of Providence which overrules all things for good.*

*That you may long occupy the place you have honored by your sterling integrity is the prayer of your sincere and attached friends,*

*Fred'k McCrellish, secretary; B. Davidson, John Sime, Fred'k Billings, Abbot Dibble, Maynard, Wm. F. Babcock, Win. B. Johnston, Geo. H. Howard, Noble Sage, Jacob Deeth, N. G. Partridge, Wm. J. Shaw, Delos Lake, G. K. Fitch, John S. Ellis, H. E. Highton, J. B. Thomas, J. A. Banks, H. De La Montanya, C. J. Dempster, John Shirly, Cornelius D. O'Sullivan, John F. O'Connor, Myles D. Sweeny, James H. Cutter, Eugene Crowell, John H. Bosworth, Jos. S. Paxton, Thomas H. Selby, A. S. Gould, T. W. Macondray, R. E. Brewster, J. R. Robinson (of Coleman & Co.), J. C. Beideman, and several others.*

Having transcribed the foregoing at random from copious eulogistic notices of the Governor and his official acts during his term in office, in order to avoid the suspicion of having given an exaggerated account of his merits, we now hasten to conclude our imperfect sketch by giving a brief account of him and his ancestors in the past.

John G. Downey was born in Castlesampson, in the County of Roscommon, Ireland, on the 24th of June, 1826. Castlesampson was the inheritance and home of the Downeys during many centuries. Their estates were confiscated under the English penal laws, for the Downeys remained faithful to the old creed, but, though disinherited, they were not dishonored, and the representatives of the family retained their influence among the people.

The Downeys, called, according to different styles of orthography, " o Dubhnaigh" or " ui Dubhnaigh," were distinguished and known to fame as early as the ninth and tenth centuries. Some were chiefs, others bishops and abbots, and were originally from the north, belonging to the "Kinell Eogan." There was one a celebrated Archbishop of Cashel in the eleventh century.

The Governor's maternal ancestors were the Gateleys, who were of Norman descent, and were distinguished in Ireland for their high position and many virtues. The Gateleys were

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distinguished as clergymen, lawyers and\* engineers, and loved the land of their nativity with an ardor equaling that of the original Irish. These were again connected by marriage with the Johnstons, a name distinguished for the high standing and wealth of many of its members. The Governor, we- find,therefore, was no " novus homo," having a combined stream of Celtic and Norman blood coursing in his veins.

John G. Downey came to the United States in 1842, being then ten» years of age. Though he passed through the course of studies given in the national schools of Ireland, where he acquired a fair knowledge of the sciences and the English grammar, yet judging rightly of the advantages of a classical education, he devoted two terms to the study of Latin in Maryland. Soon after he entered as an apprentice to learn the drug business, in Washington, under John P. Callan. His next location was Cincinnati, where, on account of his knowledge as a pharmacist, he readily got admitted as a partner with one Darling. His business in Cincinnati was prosperous, and he might have become wealthy in persevering in its pursuit, but the California popular movement, in 1849, was too strong for him to resist, and he started to the land of golden promise. He reached San Francisco early in 1850, where he at once engaged as bookkeeper for Henry Johnston & Co., of Dupont street.

In December 1850, he went to Los Angeles where he settled permanently, and having been elected to the office of County Treasurer, he declined the honor on account of the fact that his own private affairs demanded all his care and attention. Notwithstanding his disinclination to politics, he was repeatedly elected City Councilor and Supervisor. In the year 1855 he was put forward as the champion of liberty and right, against the fierce opposition of Know-Nothingism and proscriptive secret organizations, and was elected by a handsome majority.

Before this time Gov. Downey had no desire for politics, and was rather inclined to enjoy the " otium cum dignitate" of quiet life, of study and philosophy. But when he saw the dangers that threatened the State and civilization from a conspiracy of the most unprincipled members of the lowest and worst element of society, held together by horrid oaths and prepared for confiscation, rapine and blood, he flung himself into the front ranks of opposition to the treasonable Order of Know-Nothings, and instead of the office seeking him, as heretofore, he now sought office as the only standpoint from which a successful opposition could be made against the reckless aims of KnowNothingism. He stripped himself of all private cares when he heard the call of the constitution for aid and defenders, and he never sheathed the sword of truthful debate until he found himself seated in the supreme chair of state, and from there he boldly rebuked and finally discouraged and blighted, by the exercise of a just but stern authority, all efforts of secret treason to obstruct the wheels of constitutional government.

He became Governor in 1859, and his official acts, vetos, messages, instructions and proclamations form, as indicated by the extracts given above, one of the most pleasing chapters in the history of the State.

Gov. Downey married, in 1852, Miss Guirado, a Spanish lady of rare accomplishments, and he was only thirty-four years of age when he held the reins of supreme power in the State.

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Governor Downey is to-day comparatively a young man, only fifty-one years of age, and, with his experience, ability and popularity, might reasonably expect and aspire to higher political honors than those already enjoyed by him. But, having discharged well the duties of his office as Governor, and being of a studious and philosophical turn of mind, he has followed in the footsteps of some of the greatest statesmen and rulers, such as Cincinnatus, Washington and Jackson, by retiring to his ranch to enjoy the peaceful life of a farmer, and entertain his friends at his hospitable board. Having served well his country he retired from the political arena, before corruption became an epidemic, with his robes of office unstained by the slightest speck of official fraud or dishonesty. And this is no small glory in these degenerate days.

Before concluding this imperfect sketch of Governor Downey we must not omit to allude to the style and composition of all his official writings, whether messages or proclamations. His annual message for the year .1861 is a model of pure English. In its well-rounded periods there are no superfluous words, but the style flows on like a transparent rivulet over a bright and pebbly bottom, making its music and its force clear and agreeable to the most superficial observer. There is no bombast, or cant phrases, or "buncombe" speeches, but sound views and statesmanlike suggestions are uttered in language of Attic brevity and sententious Celtic eloquence.

Some of the papers, to make people believe that they were sound critics and judges of perspicuity of language, criticised the Governor's writings as " plain," when the fact was that they themselves, in their journalistic compositions, show a lamentable lack of all the constituents of elegant or even grammatical writing.

Governor Downey, whether he wrote a message, penned a Thanksgiving proclamation or hurled a veto, like a thunderbolt, at a corrupt ring, never once forgot that he was a gentlemen, a scholar, a Christian and an Irishman.

" The Portland *Times* republishes Governor Downey's excellent Thanksgiving proclamation as a literary selection. It is got up (written ?) in good taste and breathes a spirit of devotion and patriotism seldom equaled in a similar document."— *Maryville Appeal*.

In fine, if any man could be happy in looking back on his political career as a statesman that man is Governor John G. Downey.

### **Article from The Downey Patriot Newspaper December 2011**

#### **Bronze Bust Honoring John Gately Downey Unveiled in Taughmaconnell**

After approximately ten years of planning, organizing, fundraising and working hand in hand with local, as well as with County authorities, the Taughmaconnell Heritage Group finally saw their hard work rewarded, when on October 15<sup>th</sup>, the American Ambassador to Ireland, the honorable Daniel Rooney, unveiled a bronze bust of John Gately Downey, the seventh governor of California, in the tiny village of Taughmaconnell, in South County Roscommon, Ireland. The village of Taughmaconnell is adjacent to the town-land of Castlesampson, where Governor Downey was born and raised.

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The effort to erect this memorial was led by Mr. Micheal Moore, chairman of the local Heritage Group. Together, with the assistance of this dedicated group, Mr. Moore worked tirelessly to plan, commission and erect this bronze likeness. In conjunction with this effort, the Heritage Group also published an informative booklet detailing and outlining many of the highlights of the Governor's career in politics and business, as well as his civic and philanthropic contributions.

Among the many congratulatory letters received to mark this occasion was one from the current Governor of California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Governor Schwarzenegger and Governor Downey share a very special and unique distinction; they are the only foreign-born Governors of the Golden State.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors marked the occasion by issuing a special proclamation, which detailed John Downey's contributions to the Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and, the Nation. The City of Downey also issued a proclamation in recognition of the occasion. One letter that was particularly appreciated was written by the president and CEO of the Downey Historical Society, Mr. John Vincent.

Even the predictably rainy Irish weather cooperated, and the unveiling took place under clear skies. A large crowd assembled to witness the event and listened attentively to the many speeches given by the local politicians and other invited dignitaries. Following the unveiling, the assembled throng retired to the local parish hall, where food and refreshments were served and a good time was had by all

### **John Downey Harvey (1860-1947)**

**John Downey Harvey** was the first born child to Eleanor Downey and Walter Harvey,.

He was a nephew of John Gately Downey, the seventh Governor of California, and Annie Downey Donahue, wife of Peter Donahue of San Francisco.

Date of birth: 1860.

Eleanor Downey, born September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1828, in the town land of Castelesampson, Taughmaconnell Parish, South County Roscommon Ireland.

Eleanor Downey taught school in Southern California before she married Major Walter Harvey, from Georgia, in San Gabriel Mission, in Los Angeles County in 1858.

Eleanor and Walter had two children, John Downey Harvey (1860-1947) and Mary (1862-1867).

Walter Harvey died in Los Angeles in 1861, before his daughter, Mary was born, leaving Eleanor a young widow.

Although John Downey Harvey was born in Los Angeles, but he grew up in San Francisco when his mother married Edward Martin On May 13<sup>th</sup>. 1869.

Mr. Martin was from Enniscorty, County Wexford, Ireland, and arrived in San Francisco in 1849. Edward Martin was a widower

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with seven children prior to marrying Eleanor Downey Harvey.

Eleanor and Edward were married at San Gabriel Mission in Los Angeles county on Martin On May 13<sup>th</sup>. 1869. The witnesses were John G Downey and Catherine Den.

Eleanor and Edward Martin, had three sons, Andrew (1870-1899), Peter (1871-1915), and Walter (1874-1957).

John Downey Harvey became a lawyer.

He married Sophia Cutter, (1863-1943) the daughter of BB Cutter.

John and Sophia had two daughters.

Their daughters were Mrs. Oscar Cooper late of New York, and, Mrs. Wade Barron.

Each in turn had a daughter, Jane Cooper and Sophie Barron.

Jane Cooper and Sophie Barron are John Downey Harvey's grandchildren.

Jane Cooper (1808-1971) married John Millen (1907-1976)

John Downey Harvey died in San Francisco in 1947.He was 87 years old.

His wife Sophie died in 1943, at the age of 80 years.

Note:

There are two other people interred in the Downey Donahue family plot in Colma California.  
Anita Cooper Harvey (1884-1980), and Natalie Mecklenburg. (1880- 1931)

### **Eleanor Downey Martin (1828-1928)**

Born September 8<sup>th</sup>.1828, in Castlesampson town-land,  
Taughmaconnell parish, (pronounced, top-ma-connell)  
South County Roscommon  
Ireland.  
Closest town: Athlone. (four miles east)

Father: Dennis Downey.

Mother: Bridget Gately.

Bridget Gately had been widowed before marrying Dennis Downey. She was previously married to a man named John Martin with whom she had two daughters, Mary and Winifred Martin.

Eleanor was approximately seventeen years old when the great Irish famine (1845/1852) began.

Her brother John Gately Downey, one year older then Eleanor, the seventh Governor of California, came to America in 1842. John came to California in 1849, and eventually settled in Los Angeles, California, in December 1850.

Eleanor came to America in 1851, when she was 23 years old, along with her mother Bridget, older brother, Patrick, and younger sister, Annie. They originally settled in Bryantown, Charles Count, Maryland, where their two step-sisters, Winifred and Mary Martin, lived. Her step- sister had a school , '*St. Mary's Institute*', *an Academy for Young Ladies*. While there, Eleanor studied to be a school teacher.

Eleanor, along with her brother Patrick,(1820-1867) and her sister Annie, (1837-1896) joined their brother John, (1827-1894) in California, on May 22, 1856. She was 28 years old.

In 1860, her brother, John Gately Downey (1827-1894) became the seventh governor of California.

Eleanor taught school in Los Angeles before she married Major Walter Harvey, from Georgia, in 1858. Eleanor and Walter had two children, John Downey Harvey (1860-1947) and Mary (1862-1867).  
Walter Harvey, who was born in 1820, died in 1861.

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On May 13<sup>th</sup>. 1869, she married Irish- born businessman Edward Martin. Mr. Martin was from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland, and arrived in San Francisco in 1849. Edward Martin was a widower with seven children. They were married at San Gabriel Mission in Los Angeles. The witnesses were John G Downey and Catherine Den. Together they had three sons, Andrew (1870-1899), Peter (1871-1915), and Walter (1874-1957).

Her husband, Edward Martin, preceded her in death on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1880. His estate was one of the largest ever probated in California at the time. He then owned 600,000. acres in Oregon and 200,000, in California, around where today's cities of Whittier, Riverside, and Santa Ana are, as well as at the oil fields around Sterns Rancho.

Eleanor Martin was known as the "Czarina" of San Francisco High Society, and presided over the period referred to as "*The Gilded age of high society*", for 59 years. Her home was know as the "fortress of respectability". Three presidents, William Howard Taft, Teddy Roosevelt and William McKinley, were among the many notable guests in her palatial home at 2040 Broadway Street.

Nothing in Eleanor's background growing up in Castlesampson prepared her for this role in life. Her brother, John Gately Downey, was involved in politics in Los Angeles by the time she arrived in California. John had married Maria Jesus Guirado in 1852. John was twenty five years old at the time, and Maria just fifteen, the same age as John's youngest sister, Annie. Consequently, Eleanor acted as hostess for her brother at both social and political events for some time. This was her introduction into the world of politics and high society, a world where she would thrive years later in San Francisco, after she married Edward Martin. By the time she reached middle age, Eleanor had inherited three enormous fortunes, her husbands estate, most of Annie Downey's estate, and the bulk of her brother John's estate. She managed her considerable assets from her late husband's office on Montgomery Street until late in her life.

Three of her Eleanor's five children preceded her in death.

Eleanor Downey Martin, born 1828, died in San Francisco California ion July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1928. She may well have been the wealthiest woman in California at the time of her death.

All of the Downey's and Donahue's gave generously to charities of every denomination during their lifetimes. The Catholic diocese of San Francisco, and Archbishop Reardon in particular, were major beneficiary in their final wills.

The American Camellia Society named a camellia for her '*Eleanor Martin Supreme*'

### **Annie Downey Donahue. (1837- 1896)**

Born 1837, Castlesampson town-land,

Taughmaconnell parish, (pronounced, top-ma-connell)  
South County Roscommon  
Ireland.

Closest town: Athlone. (four miles east)

Father: Dennis Downey.

Mother: Bridget Gately.

Bridget Gately had been widowed before marrying Dennis Downey. She was previously marred to a man named John Martin with whom she had two daughters. Mary and Winifred Martin.

Annie Downey was born in the same year that her father died. (1837)

She was approximately eight years old when the great Irish famine began, 1845/1852.

Her brother, John Gately Downey, the seventh Governor of California, came to America in 1842. John came to California in 1849, and settled in Los Angeles, California in December, 1850.

Annie came to America with her mother Bridget Downey, her older brother Patrick, and sister Eleanor, in 1851.

They originally settled in Bryantown, Charles County, Maryland, where her two step-sisters, Winifred and Mary Martin, lived, and where they had a school's. *Mary's Institute', an Academy for Young Ladies*. Annie was 14 years old when she came to America.

She, along with her eldest brother Patrick, and her sister Eleanor, joined their brother John, in California, in 1856, when she was 19 years old. She studied at the Convent of Notre Dame in San Jose, before going back to the Los Angeles area where she taught school.

In 1860, her brother John Gately Downey (1827-1894) became the seventh Governor of California.

Annie was married to Peter Donahue (1822-1885) in San Gabriel Mission on August 6<sup>th</sup>. 1864, by bishop Amat.

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The witnesses were Thomas Nugent Cassneau and Maria Jesus Guirado de Downey. Peter's first wife, Mary Jane Maguire, whom he married in 1852, died in childbirth. Peter and Mary Jane had four children, two of whom survived him, James Marvin (April 30, 1859- 1890 ) and Mary Ellen. In 1888, Mary Ellen married John Henry von Schroeder, becoming Baroness Von Schroeder. Baroness Mary Ellen Donohue von Schroeder died on December 1925, at her home on the Baltic Sea.

1925. James Marvin married the daughter of Judge William T. Wallace,(1828-1909) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Annie and Peter had no children of their own. They lived in their mansion in "Happy Valley", at 454 Bryant Street, San Francisco, most of their married lives.

Her husband preceded her in death on November 26, 1885. Peter's will provided for both of his children.

Annie died in her home at 2112 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, California, on December 12, 1896.

Annie's considerable estate went primarily to her older sister Eleanor Downey Martin. and Eleanor's first born from her marriage to Walter Harvey, John Downey Harvey.

Annie Street in San Francisco, was named for Annie Downey Donahue.

The city of Anaheim, was also named for her.

A pair of life sized bronze busts of Peter and Annie Downey Donahue, executed by Rupert Schmidt in 1894, can be found at the Marin History Museum, 1125 B Street, San Rafael, California (415) 454-8538 <http://www.marinhistory.org/> They were previously displayed in the lobby of the headquarters of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) on Market Street, San Francisco, for many years. Peter Donahue, and his brother James Donahue, were the founders of PG&E. These busts were donated to the Marin Historical Museum, on May 4th 1976, by Mr. Paul Schweizer from Fremont CA.

Incidentally, Rupert Schmidt also did the bronze likeness of Governor Downey that's mounted on his gravestone in Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California, around the same time.

NOTE; In her final will, Annie left busts to her step-daughter, Baroness Von Schroeder.

Excerpt from Annie Donahue's will -1896. "*Baroness Von Schroeder mentioned by the testator as her stepdaughter, is to have the family busts and pictures*".

Crocker & Co. description of Annie Downey Donahue dated, June 30, 1888:

"A lady of intelligence and education, who appreciated [Donahue's] manly worth, and whose practical good sense aided his own judgment in affairs of intricacy and importance. She still resides in the old mansion (on Bryant Street) that was their home through many years of an especially happy marriage"

All of the Downey's and Donahue's gave generously to charities of every denomination during their lifetimes. The Catholic diocese of San Francisco, and Archbishop Reardon in particular, were major beneficiary in their final wills.

### The City of Downey Honors Its Founder Bronze Bust of John Gately Downey Unveiled

December 7, 2010 DOWNEY CALIFORNIA: Precisely, on the one hundred and sixtieth anniversary of his arrival in Los Angeles, the City of Downey unveiled a bronze bust honoring their city's founder, John Gately Downey. John Downey was born and raised in Castlesampson, in the parish of Taughmaconnell, just west of Athlone. The likeness of Governor Downey, that was unveiled, matches exactly the bust dedicated to him in Taughmaconnell just seven weeks prior. The unveiling in Downey was timed to coincide with the swearing in of the new Mayor of the city and the new City Council. The fact that this date also marked the anniversary of his arrival was an unintended but greatly appreciated coincidence. So impressive a man was John Downey that the naming of this city in the heart of Los Angeles County for him would not have ranked near the top of his impressive list of accomplishments. However, but for the fact that the

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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city was named for him, he would undoubtedly have faded away completely in the fog of history. Former Mayor and current councilman, Mario Guerra, noted in his remarks that the impetus to honor Governor Downey here was initially inspired by a conversation that he had with Gene O'Sullivan, a representative from the Taughmaconnell Heritage Group, here in California, telling him about their plans to honor John Downey with a bronze bust in his birthplace. Deeply interested in the history of Downey, Mayor Guerra immediately set about presenting his idea to do something similar to the City Council for their consideration. Mayor Guerra's recommendation was met with unanimous approval, and, on November 24, 2009, the city-appointed Art in Public Places Committee recommended that the next art project in the City of Downey should be a statue dedicated to Governor Downey. Community Services Director, Thad Phillips, was then asked to recommend a consultant specializing in public art who would provide a cost estimate and recommend qualified artists to compete for the job. This ultimately led to Mark Rode, the sculpture who created the Bronze bust for the Taughmaconnell group, being commissioned to cast a similar bronze for the City of Downey.

Recalling his first impressions upon his arrival in Los Angeles County in December of 1850, John Downey wrote, "Los Angeles was the most pock marked town your ever saw. But the country was lovely The month was December and the flowers were in bloom, and the appearance of the whole county was beautiful. I made up my mind to stay here" Fittingly, the unveiling took place under crystal clear blue skies, with temperature in the low eighties, and flowers were blooming everywhere, just as John Downey had described it himself one hundred and sixty years earlier.

The unveiling ceremony began with a bagpiper playing a selection of Irish airs. That was followed by the invocation given by Rev. Msgr. David O'Leary, who hails from County Cork. A flag salute was then conducted by Mr. John Vincent, president of the Downey Historical Society. The Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Los Angeles, Mr. Finbar Hill, followed with some remarks and recounted many of the remarkable achievements realized by John Downey during his lifetime. Mr. Hill, a County Cork native, also mentioned the financial difficulties that were being experienced by both Ireland and California at the present moment in time. He noted, optimistically, that he was confident that both Ireland and California would both emerge from this difficult period and regain footing in the near future. Following additional comments by current Mayor Anne Bayer, Mayor Pro Tem, Luis Marquez, Councilmen David Gafin and Roger Brossmer, the ceremonial unveiling took place.

The bust was placed prominently outside the main entrance to City Hall and in a location where everyone who enters through the main entrance will come in contact with it. A plaque installed below Governor Downey's image reads as follows:

Seventh Governor of California and the first of foreign birth. Born June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1827 in County Roscommon, Ireland. Immigrated to the United States in 1842. Settled in Los Angeles in the early 1850's where he was active in business, local and state government. Governor (1860-62) during commencement of the Civil War and preserved California in the Union. His banking and railroad influence helped build the economic foundation of Southern California. A founder of the University of Southern California. City of Downey named in his honor in 1873. Died March 1, 1894.

From booklet published by the Taughmaconnell Heritage Group



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The sheer magnitude of John Gately Downey's achievements and accomplishments in a comparatively short lifetime are difficult to fully absorb and comprehend when viewed in the context of today's world. Dead at the early age of sixty-six, John was one of very select group of visionary leaders whose energy and foresight combined with enormous ambition, courage and talent, forged and developed the then fledgling state of California into an economic and political powerhouse.

His achievements are all the more remarkable when one considers that his productive life effectively came to an end after the untimely and tragic death of his wife Maria, in January of 1883. In just thirty-three short years after his arrival in Los Angeles from San Francisco, he conquered the world of business and politics and left an indelible mark that endures across the entire length and breadth of the state of California to the present day. Yet, for some reason, he remains virtually unknown in the land of his birth. Having grown up here in South County Roscommon myself, it wasn't until I had left Ireland and settled in California that I first heard of John Downey.

The life story of John Downey and his remarkable sisters Eleanor and Annie is not ancient history by any measure. To give you an idea of just how recent all of this is, consider that John's sister Eleanor, just one year his junior, died in 1928. There are people here in the parish of Taughmaconnell, today, who were alive and well when Eleanor was still reigning over high society in San Francisco. That's how recent all of this is.

Despite having achieved enormous success in the fields of politics and business, John always remained true to his upbringing in Castlesampson. He never lost his love of the land, and in his lifetime he accumulated some two hundred thousand acres. He raised sheep and cattle and planted vineyards and orange groves, and was a prime mover in establishing California as a leading producer of both crops.

Eleanor's husband, Edward Martin from County Wexford, was a hugely successful businessman in his own right. Like John Downey's brother Edward Martin also loved the land. At the time of his death, Ed Martin left a huge estate including land holdings well in excess of six hundred thousand acres.

Annie's husband, Peter Donahue, was equally impressive. Known to this day as *The Father of California Industry*, Peter Donahue built railroads as well as the railcars and steam engines that ran on them. They built ships in his own shipyards and produced mining equipment that worked the California goldfields and the great Comstock Lode in Nevada. Peter's most enduring achievement however, was the founding and establishment of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, (PG&E) which is still one of the world's great utility companies, providing gas and electricity for much of California.

In their lifetime, the Downey's from Castlesampson became one of the most powerful and influential families in the history of the great state of California. Their influence is still felt to some degree everyday by most of its nearly 36 million residents. That's an amazing legacy for a family from Castlesampson, in the parish of Taughmaconnell, in South County Roscommon.

Notes:

Kept California in the union

Went against his own party to do this despite the fact that it cost him his political career

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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As the ex-governor and the first governor from the south he amassed considerable prestige and influence. As founder of the first bank he was in a unique position in both the business and political landscape. He had tremendous influence and his council and guidance was sought by all. All roads led to his bank and he was aware of all developments and opportunities as they came to the surface. He in effect became the hub in the wheel of progress in Los Angeles and the entire Los Angeles basin as a very critical time in the areas settlement and development.. He understood the benefits of partnering with people who had unique talents and ambitions. There is All of his accomplishments were during a time when his homeland was under extreme stress. The famine occurred after he had left Castlesampson and the aftermath of that cataclysmic event lingered on until it was replaced by the struggle for independence. Unfortunately, John Downey was lost in the fog of history as a result. Therefore it is particularly gratifying to see that he is being finally recognized in the place of his birth by the community where he first saw the light of day.

The city of Downey is named for him

The city of Anaheim is named for his sister

Annie Street in San Francisco named for Annie Downey Donahue

Downey High School

Downey Avenue

Downey Street

Mount Downey

WebRoots.org

Nonprofit Library for Genealogy & History-Related Research

*A Free Resource Covering the United States and Some International Areas*

Library - U.S. History - States - California

See Page 33

<http://www.webroots.org/library/usahist/ca/roarsca1.html>

The author felt highly flattered at not only being permitted to breathe the same air, tread the same soil, but to actually live in the same town and to meet, pass and repass, on terms of absolute equality, such distinguished men as those referred to. The privilege was certainly a great one, and the author, as aforesaid, was prone to feel and appreciate it to its fullest extent. Many other parties who had killed their half- dozen were pointed out, but, save and except one, I think "Crooked Nose" and "Bob" were the most entitled to mention. The exception above noted was a native Californian, named Ricardo Urives, who, in manner and appearance, was the most perfect specimen of a desperado I ever beheld. Ricardo could stand more shooting and stabbing than the

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

average bull or grizzly bear. I remember that on one lovely Sabbath afternoon, Ricardo got into a fight at the upper end of the Calle de los Negros, and was beset with a crowd fully intent on securing his scalp. He was attacked in front, rear and on each flank; he was shot, stabbed and stoned; his clothes were literally cut from his body. Still he fought his way, revolver in one hand, bowie knife in the other, all the way past the old Coronel corner to Aliso and Los Angeles

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streets, where his horse was hitched. He quietly mounted, bare-headed, bleeding from at least a score of wounds. The crowd had fallen back into the narrow street, where lay some half-dozen bleeding victims to bear witness to the certainty of Ricardo's aim. The writer had witnessed the sanguinary and desperate affair from the up-stairs verandah of Captain Bell's residence, on the corner of Los Angeles and Aliso streets; and seeing that there were a multitude against one, felt greatly excited in favor of the one, and it was with a secret prayer of thanks that I saw the heroic fellow, who was so cut and carved that his own mother would have failed to recognize him, emerge from the crowded street, come to bay and drive his pursuers back. What then was my surprise to see him deliberately ride back to the place whence he had so miraculously escaped. It seemed that he had fired the last shot from his heavy Colt, for when he charged through the street he used his revolver as a war-club, and scattered and drove his enemies like sheep. He then rode off into what is now called Sonora and got his wounds bandaged up. It afterwards transpired that he had been shot three times in the body, and stabbed all over. He then put in a full hour riding up and down Main street in front of the Bella Union, daring any gringo officer to arrest him. None being bold enough to make the attempt, the gentle Ricardo took his quiet departure for the "Rancho de los Coyotes," then the property of his sister.

Ricardo was brave, an army of one hundred thousand of his likes would be invincible. But Ricardo's courage was that of the lion or the tiger, and like those barons of the brute creation, when brought face to face with moral as well as physical courage, the animal bravery of the desperado would quail.

**One day a quiet young gentleman** was passing through Nigger Alley, and found Don Ricardo on the war path. He was tormenting, berating and abusing everyone who came in his way, and was particular in his abuse of a young Mexican, who seemed to be a stranger, and to be greatly frightened. The young gentleman stopped for a moment, and authoritatively ordered the domineering Don to desist. The astonishment of Ricardo was beyond description. He looked contemptuously at the young man for a minute, then quietly drawing his bowie started deliberately for him, when, in an instant, he was covered with a small revolver, and commanded to stop. "One more step," said the gringo, "and you are a dead man." With his eye he caught that of Ricardo, and gazed fixedly into his terrible, tiger-like orbs. Ricardo halted and commenced to threaten. "Put up that knife," said the young gringo. Ricardo flourished his knife and swore. "Stop that," said the gringo, with his eyes still riveted on those of the human hyena. The Don stopped. Then once more, "Put up that knife, or I will shoot you dead." Ricardo sheathed his bowie. "Vayasse," "Begone," said the gringo, and to the utter astonishment of the congregated crowd, Ricardo turned and slunk away. At this juncture Jim Barton, the Sheriff, with a party, arrived on the scene, and congratulated the victorious gringo on his achievement, and then and not until then, did the gentleman know of the desperate character of his antagonist. It was a fine example of moral and physical over mere brute courage. The young gringo referred to, then a

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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stranger, afterward became Governor of the great State of California, and in discharge of the high trust confided to him, displayed the same degree of moral courage that first manifested itself in the motley crowd in Calle de Los Negros, and made the best Governor, possibly, our State ever had. The young gringo and ex-Governor John G. Downey are one and the same.

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John Gately Downey Correspondence. I have never been able to locate this book, if it ever existed

[http://books.google.com/books?id=MgXXNwAACAAJ&dq=john+Gately+Downey&hl=en&ei=8aP5TK\\_ZAo24sQOU-3bBw&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAQ](http://books.google.com/books?id=MgXXNwAACAAJ&dq=john+Gately+Downey&hl=en&ei=8aP5TK_ZAo24sQOU-3bBw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAQ)

The Governorship of John Gately Downey. Never been able to find this one either

[http://books.google.com/books?id=nqvZIAAACAAJ&dq=John+Gately+Downey.&hl=en&ei=-6r5TIXZGpKosQO69OThCA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCcQ6AEwATgo](http://books.google.com/books?id=nqvZIAAACAAJ&dq=John+Gately+Downey.&hl=en&ei=-6r5TIXZGpKosQO69OThCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CCcQ6AEwATgo)

Henry Lowe Mudd

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11767773>

<http://theoldentimes.com/cawreck.html>

Maria Downey train Wreck

The riddle of Doctor Mudd. Reference to JGD

<http://books.google.com/books?ei=WK35TJL2Fo6asAOTkOiuCA&ct=result&id=zcl2AAAAMAAJ&dq=The+riddle+of+Dr.+Mudd&q=John+Gately+Downey>

Annie Downey's Husband, Peter Donahue

[http://www.baycrossings.com/archives/2000/05\\_May\\_June/bay\\_characters.htm](http://www.baycrossings.com/archives/2000/05_May_June/bay_characters.htm)

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Governor Downey Administrative records

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=tf4t1nb08d;style=oac4;view=dsc#c02-1.3.5.20.8>

Berdino GUIRADO

<http://www.juanmatiassanchez.com/html/fam00007.htm>

LA County record Downey GUIRADO Supervisors (JGS' a brother-in-law)

<http://file.lacounty.gov/lac/bguirado.pdf>

Russian Admiral in SF Bay during the Civil War

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrei\\_Alexandrovich\\_Popov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrei_Alexandrovich_Popov)

In her book, Downey's Destiny, O'Donnell Hunt tells the story that Downey bought the Black Swan for his transportation. I have to remind myself that it is a historical novel.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2001/dec/23/local/me-17520>

Downey marriage information plus assembly membership 1850

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/juan-jos-warner/an-historical-sketch-of-los-angeles-county-california-from-the-spanish-occupan-nra/page-7-an-historical-sketch-of-los-angeles-county-california-from-the-spanish-occupan-nra.shtml>

Benjamin Hayes Downey Friend .

<http://www.google.com/search?tbs=bks%3A1&tbo=1&q=Pioneer+notes+from+the+diaries+of+Judge+Benjamin+Hayes%2C+1849-1875>.

The McFarland Clan

[http://clanmacfarlane.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=36:james-and-dacey-bilbro-mcfarland-and-their-descendants-in-henry-and-wilson-co-tn&catid=19:genealogical-histories&Itemid=31](http://clanmacfarlane.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36:james-and-dacey-bilbro-mcfarland-and-their-descendants-in-henry-and-wilson-co-tn&catid=19:genealogical-histories&Itemid=31)

Republic of the Pacific

<http://hd.housedivided.dickinson.edu/node/32555>

Population Growth by Year LA County

<http://www.laep.org/target/science/population/table.html>

<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/history/hbabs2.htm>

<http://www.nevadaobserver.com/Reading%2>

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture/broderick-terry-duel.htm>

0Room%20Documents/david\_c\_broderick.htm

<http://www.sunsetbeacon.com/archives/richmondreview/2001editions/Oct01/duel.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broderick-Terry\\_duel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broderick-Terry_duel)

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/kingcotton.htm>

Know Nothing Party

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Know\\_Nothing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Know_Nothing)

J Neely Johnson

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_Neely\\_Johnson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Neely_Johnson)

First Governor of California. **Peter Hardeman Burnett** (November 15, 1807– May 17, 1895, he was a lawyer

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Burnett](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Burnett)

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The second governor of California **John McDougall** (*ca.* 1818– March 30, 1866)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_McDougall\\_\(California\\_politician\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McDougall_(California_politician))

The Third governor of California, **John Bigler** (January 8, 1805 – November 29, 1871)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Bigler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bigler)

The Fourth Governor of California **John Neely Johnson** (August 2, 1825– August 31, 1872)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_Neely\\_Johnson#Rest\\_of\\_term](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Neely_Johnson#Rest_of_term)

The Fifth Governor of California, **John B. Weller** (February 22, 1812 – August 17, 1875)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Weller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Weller)

The Sixth Governor of California, **Milton Slocum Latham** (May 23, 1827– March 4, 1882)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton\\_Latham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_Latham)

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## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

### Miscellaneous Notes.

Although there are no official records to be found that confirm or verify the exact date that John Martin and Bridget Gately married, it is reasonable to make some assumptions based on the birth date of their youngest daughter, Winifred. Winifred was their second child, arriving on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1819. If we assume that their first child, Mary, was born a year earlier in 1818, that would allow for a marriages date in or about 1817.

It appears that both John and Bridget came from the local families in the farming community around Taughmaconnell, and that they were farmers themselves. John Martin's age is unknown at this time and whether or not he has his own farm is also unknown. There is no indication however, that Bridget inherited any land when John died.

It appears, based on dates found of gravestones in Maryland and California, that John Martin may have died before, or very shortly after the birth of Winifred, who was born in April of 1819. This conclusion is based on the date of birth shown on the gravestone for Patrick Downey, Bridget's first born after she married Dennis Downey. Patrick's headstone in Holy Cross Cemetery, in Colma California, shows his date of birth as 1820. There is always the possibility that the date on Patrick's gravestone is incorrect, and that it should have been sometime later in that decade.

Bridget Gately was born 1790, and died in Maryland, USA, on September 20, 1857, aged 67 years. That means that she was about twenty-seven years old when she and John Martin were married. John may have died around 1819, leaving her a young widow with two daughters. She subsequently married Dennis Downey and in 1820, gave birth to a son, Patrick Downey.

The possibility that the date on Patrick's gravestone is incorrect and should have been sometime later in that decade would allow for John Martin death to have occurred later on in the 1820's thereby allowing a reasonable time for Bridget to grieve his loss. The fact that Denis Downey and Bridget Gately's second child, John, didn't arrive until June of 1827 tends to support that line of thought.

We know that John's date of birth is correct without doubt. Bridget was thirty-seven years old then. A year later Eleanor arrived, when she was thirty-eight, but Annie wasn't born until 1837, the year her father passed away. Bridget was forty-seven years old at the by that time.

It's not clear when the Martin Girls left for Maryland but it may have been shortly before Dennis Downey died. If this is the case, they would have been in their late teens, somewhere around seventeen and eighteen years old. It's clear now that they originally went to members of the Gately family in Baltimore, most likely Bridget's brother. I reached this conclusion after finding a Kate Gately living at the John Downey residence in Los Angeles in the 1880 California census. Additional information there states "*Kate Gately, age 24, a teacher, born in Maryland, father born in Ireland, probably John Downey's niece.*"

After arriving in Baltimore, the Martin sisters appear to have become teachers.

A book was published by St. Mary's parish in Bryantown, Charles County Maryland, in 1993 has mention of the Misses Martin in it. This is a quote from that publication,

*"In 1859 a part of the old frame church had been moved to a plot near the new church to serve as school called 'St. Mary's Institute', an Academy for Young Ladies.*

This long quotation provided more details about the new school and its founders:

*"In the early years of the nineteenth century there came to Charles County two native-born Irish women, Mary and Winifred Martin. These two sisters, in company with a Miss Major, were seeking a likely spot for the opening of a school. They came finally to Bryantown and decided to enter upon their venture. An old dwelling on the church property was renovated and equipped and opened under the title, Saint Mary's Institute. The Institute was a boarding school for young ladies. The venture seems to have been immediately successful and continued over a period of years. Dr. Walter Fairfax Boarman was the good angel of this first school. It was he who made the necessary repairs to the dwelling that was to house the Institute and was later most generous in sending to the school provisions for the boarders and wood for cooking and heating. (Taken from St. Mary's Catholic Church Monthly Bulletin, Vol 1., No. 3, March 1943) These women and "their loyal helpers and friends laid a firm foundation for the glorious edifice that Catholic education has builded (sic) in this parish. Whilst their bodies lie in the hallowed ground within the shadow of the church their brave spirits march on in the sacrifices made and the results achieved by those of later years who have grasped the torch from their failing hands and carried it ever forward". (ibid)*

*More from this book - "Actually, the founders of this school are buried in the part of the old cemetery where the building they had turned into a school once stood, between the present church and the rectory. It was a very successful institution, patronized not only by the local families, but also by pupils from a distance. After Miss Martin retired, it was carried on by Mrs. Daniel Major and her daughters. Notices of it occur in The Catholic Mirror as late as 1865. At that time it became another of the innumerable casualties of the Civil War.*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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A local Charles County author has abstracted items from two newspapers in the 1800's

*From "Abstracts from the Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser Volume Two: 1855-1869" by Roberta Wearmouth; February 15, 1855, Volume XI, Number 42.*

*Mrs. Mary Martin died at St. Mary's Institute near Bryantown Thursday, 25 January. August 9, 1855,*

*Volume XII, Number 15 - Mary Martin estate probated - Winefried Martin, ad. August 28, 1856,*

*fair held at Miss Martin's Institute. At 11 a.m. the grand Oratorio commenced in church, full orchestra, headed by some of the most distinguished professors from the city also, some ladies, amongst whom Misses Mudd and Miss A. Fitzpatrick from Charles. Concert in Miss Martin's exhibition room was truly grand when the above mentioned ladies distinguished themselves. Eatables were in abundance. Two tables set in grove where a dinner was served that would have done credit to some of our grandest hotels, where from 2-300 persons sat down. \$800 was taken in with \$400 clear profit. Display of fireworks sublime; the whole atmosphere illuminated with explosion of hand grenades and rockets.*

*From the Abstracts, Volume 6, 1894-1898. March 16, 1894, Volume L, Number 41; Winifred Martin, Baltimore, taught school in Bryantown for many years. Brother, ex-Governor John Downey, California, died first of month. April 9, 1897, Volume LIII, Number 45; Miss Winifred Martin died at Altamont Hotel, Baltimore on Sunday. 78 years. Born in Castle Sampson, Roscommon county, Ireland and came to this county about 50 years ago. Her family settled here and Miss Martin founded and conducted St. Mary's Academy, fashionable boarding school for young ladies at Bryantown. A number of years ago her family moved to California where they amassed a considerable fortune. Half-sister to late Governor Downey, of Los Angeles. Her only near relative in this country was sister-in-law, Mrs. Eleanor Martin, Los Angeles and nephew Walter S. Martin, San Francisco. Miss Martin came to Baltimore about 8 years ago and for past 2 years lived at Altamont Hotel. Faithfully served by Margaret Malone. Dr. George D. Mudd, her attending physician, had charge of funeral arrangements which took place from the Cathedral. Present were distinguished Catholic churchmen from various sections of the country. Interment was in family lot at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown.*

*MVolume XIII, Number 18 - Grand festival held at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, and a iss Winifred Martin's will was probated in Orphans' Court of Baltimore City - leaves more than \$150, 000 to Catholic churches and institutions. Among large number of bequests are following in this county: \$40 to parish priests of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bryantown, \$25 to pay for masses for departed souls and \$25 for care of burial lot of testatrix; \$1000 for scholarship in Loyola College boys from Charles County or lower Maryland; \$200 to pastor St. Peter's Church, Waldorf, \$100 for his own use and \$100 for improving church or parsonage; \$200 to pastor St. Thomas' Church; \$300 to pastor of St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, of which \$200 to be used for building a church for colored people; \$100 each to pastors of Catholic churches at Newport, Cobb Neck and Pomfret; \$300 to Mrs. Margaret Queen Jamison of Phoenix Hall; \$300 to Francis DeSales Mudd, Hughesville; farm of 20 acres, Bryantown to Mrs. Fannie Carroll and her six children plus \$2200; farm of 20 acres, Bryantown, to Mrs. Mary C. Fladung and her children, in addition to \$2100; \$200 each to Hortense Diggs, Cora Thompson and James Thompson, Charles County; \$100 to Edwardina Pye, St. Thomas'; \$400 to Mrs. Martha Burch, Bryantown and \$800 to four daughters; \$100 to Angela Boarman, Charles County. Executors named were Frank R. Murphy, Dr. George D. Mudd and Rev. Edward R. Dyer.*

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Gene,

Winifred's will was most interesting, note the name of her doctor. Dr. George Dyer Mudd was a first cousin to Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd who set the leg of John Wilkes Booth.(Abraham Lincoln's assassin) Not to get into the politics of the day, but it is a known fact in this area that, even though they were related, they did not share the same politics. Dr. Sam was known as a "hot head" and the locals say that Dr. George tried to calm his cousin down. And on a family note. Of the churches named in the will, Newport, Cobb Neck (now Cobb Island) and Pomfret are in Charles County. Phoenix Hall is a really old house that belonged to the Jameson family, it's still standing but just barely. It is located on Edelen Rd. in Bryantown.

Regards

Kathleen

After arriving in Baltimore, and getting established in Brayertown, the Martin sisters sent for their step brother John Gately Downey. John's father had died in 1837, leaving his mother a widow for the second time. Patrick the oldest of the Downey children stayed behind to help his mother work the farm with the help of Eleanor, who was fourteen years old at the time. This allowed Bridget to take care of Annie who was five years old then.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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John arrived in Maryland in 1842, at the age of fifteen years. It has been his mothers intention, a position supported by his stepsisters, that he would become a priest. Accordingly, John attended Latin school taught by John F Corcoran. After a year in Latin School John decided that the priesthood was not for him. He used his training in Latin to secure an apprenticeship with John Callin, a druggist, in his drugstore at the corner of Second Street and E Street, the nations capital, Washington, DC. John saw no future for him in Washington DC, and moved to Vicksburg where he went into business with C. O. Woodburn who had a drug and stationary business there. From there John went to Cincinnati and went into business with an old Scotsman named John Darling. That partnership lasted about three years, until the great California gold rush began in 1849. Against Darlings advice, John decided that he wanted to go to California. John Darling told him that the gold rush was just a big bubble that would soon burst. John however, was determined to go. He sailed to the Isthmus of Panama stopping off at New Orleans and Havana along the way. The steamer West Point failed to arrive in Panama as scheduled and leaving him marooned for some time. The American consul, Mr. Caldwell, arranged for an old store ship named The Sarah to finish the journey to San Francisco, a voyage that took eighty-seven days to complete.

When John arrived in San Francisco he found a town of tents. Tens of thousands of gold prospectors has flooded in overwhelming the town. He immediately went to Sacramento and then to Marysville. From there he went on to Grass Valley, where the mining was underway around the clock. For new miners that meant panning for the precious metal in the American River. The American River is direct outflow from the snow melt in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and as a result the water temperature is very cold. John found standing in ice cold water up to his knees all day long not to his liking. He had exhausted his meager finances getting to the gold fields and rolled barrels on the docks in Sacramento on his way back to San Francisco to get some money.

After returning to San Francisco he worked for a short time for a Jewish man before clerking for some time in the wholesale druggist house of Henry Johnson and Company on du Pont Street. While working there he met for the first time Doctor J.P. McFarland, from Tennessee, from whom he first learned about the opportunities in Southern California. This was reinforced later when he saw a paper published in Los Angeles that gave an account of the southland.

Banks, as we know them today, did not exist in San Francisco during this period. Ordinary people had to find moneylenders in order to secure loans for personal needs. Money lending was a perfectly respectable practice then and it was also very lucrative. Interest rates were levied by the month and the rate was arranged between the lender and the borrower. Typical rates were above 5% per month.

As soon as he earned some money, John Downey engaged in the practice of money lending. In a relatively short time he was able to spiral his bankroll into a sizeable account. When the opportunity to purchase a cargo of pharmaceutical compounds presented itself, John Downey was able to make the purchase using his entire bankroll. said to be in the amount of around \$1800.00 John agreed to purchase the cargo with the understanding that he and it would be delivered to San Pedro Harbor. The journey to San Pedro on the schooner took three weeks. He arrived at San Pedro in December of 1850. California has been admitted into the Union a couple of months earlier, on September 9<sup>th</sup> that same year, and a free state. Arriving at San Pedro, John arranged for his cargo to be shipped by cart to Los Angeles He himself walked the twenty miles inland to the dusty cowtown to save the cost of a carriage. John describes Los Angeles as the most pock marked place he has ever seen. There were only two, two story buildings to be seen. He was not very impressed at the condition of these buildings, according to his own account, There were not six rooms in the town that had board floors. He describes the country however, as being lovely, and even though it was December, flowers were blooming. The appearance of the country was was most beautiful according to John. He immediately made up his mind to stay there.

John and Doctor McFarland immediately went about the task of setting up a pharmacy on a property owned by B.D.Wilson. There was the only pharmacy between San Francisco and San Diego but also had customers from lower California and Sonora Mexico. The venture was very successful and John again became in the business of money lending.

1851 proved to be an eventful year. John became an American citizen that year, and he was able to send money to his family in Ireland so that they could join his stepsisters in Maryland. His family had endured the worse of the great Irish Famine which saw one of their uncles die from starvation.

It was during this period of his life that he met Maria Jesus Guirado, the beautiful daughter of Don Rafael Guirado. . Maria Guirado was born into an influential California family. Her father, Don Rafael Guirado, moved from Guaymas, Mexico to Whittier, California in 1833. four years later Maria was born there. In 1852, John and Maria married. John was twentyfive and maria was fifteen.

After three years in the pharmacy business, John had accumulated \$30,000.00, and he and his partner decided to sell the pharmacy.

# John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Enters politics

Bought Ranch

**Arriving in San Francisco** after an 87 day journey from Vicksburg, he immediately found his way to the

While working in San Francisco, **John Downey met Dr. J P McFarland**, a southern gentleman from the state of Tennessee .

The Irish potato famine (1845-1852) occurred after John left Ireland. His remaining family lived through most of the devastation before coming to America. They experienced great difficulty and lost much of their land and stock holdings during the famine years.

**John Downey marries Dona Maria Jesus Guirado**, the daughter of Don Rafael Guirado. He was 25 years old, Maria was 15 years old. When John Downey became Governor, Maria became the youngest first lady in the states history, a fact that is still holds true today. They had no children.

## **Biography**

Maria Guirado was born into an influential California family. Her father, Don Rafael Guirado, moved from Guaymas, Mexico to Whittier, California in 1833. In 1852, Maria married John Downey, an Irish immigrant who made a fortune after starting a drugstore and bank in Los Angeles. He also founded the town of Downey. Maria was described as educated, beautiful, and refined. She felt that one of her duties as First Lady was to help the more unfortunate. After John left office, he and Maria moved back to Los Angeles where they built a beautiful home at, 345 South Main Street.

Maria Downey died tragically in a train accident in the Tehachapi Mountains on January 29, 1883.

Read a copy of the newspaper account of the Tehachapi Disaster at the end of this document (page 26)

## **Elected Political Offices held by John G Downey**

Elected to Los Angeles common council 1852-

Elected County Supervisor 1855

Elected to the California Assembly 1856

Elected Lieutenant Governor 1859

Governor of California 1860-62

Elected County Supervisor 1866-67

Under United States control after 1848, when the United States defeated Mexico in the Mexican-American war, the harbor was greatly improved and expanded under the guidance of Phineas Banning and John Gately Downey, the seventh governor of California. San Pedro has now become the largest port on the West Coast of the United States and the busiest port in the country

**Eleanor** was born in Castlesampson in September 1826. She passed away on July 6, 1928, at the age of 102 years. She ruled San Francisco society where she was known as the "Czarina", for decades, and entertained three US Presidents, William H Taft, Teddy Roosevelt and William McKinley, in her palatial home at 2040 Broadway.

1862, **Anna** (also known as Annie) married San Francisco industrialist Peter Donahue. She was twenty-six years old. Peter was one of the remarkable Donahue brothers who, among other accomplishments, founded Pacific Gas and Electric Co., as well as the first iron foundry on the West Coast. Peter becomes known as the Father of California Industry.

The City of Anaheim (German for Anna's home) was named for Anna Downey.

Anna died in 1896, eleven years after Peter, at the age of 60.

The Downey sisters and the Donahue brothers were among the principle contributors to the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco, contributing generously to the construction of the cathedral and to various parish-building projects. When the Archbishop of San Francisco was directed to build a seminary, it was to these generous benefactors that he again turned

## **Eleanor Downey Marries**

Major Walter Harris Harvey, a native of Georgia, once a cadet at West Point, but dismissed for his pranks (who about the middle of the fifties married Eleanor, eldest full sister of John G. Downey, and became the father of J. Downey Harvey, came to California shortly after the Mexican War.

After Major Harvey's death at Los Angeles in 1861, aged forty-eight years, she married Edward Martin who was born, 1819 in Ennecorthy County Wexford, Ireland. Martin settled in California in 1848. Mr. Martin was the co-founder of Hibernia Savings and Loan, and First National bank. He also had a real estate business and a prosperous Lacquer Store. Mr. Martin



## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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became one of the wealthiest men on the West Coast. His land holdings alone comprised some 800,000 acres in California and Oregon.

Purchased a ships cargo of pharmaceutical compounds at a discount in San Francisco and took delivery at the port of San Pedro, today's Los Angeles Harbor. .

Mary Martin died in her late thirties

Bridget Downey dies at the Saint Mary's Institute for Girls in Brayertown and is interred in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Brayertown,  
Charles county Maryland.

Bridget Downey Born 1790  
Died September 20, 1857, aged 67 years

Winifred Martin Born April 11, 1819.  
Died April 4, 1897. Aged 78 years.

Mary Martin  
Died 17, January 1855

Street encounter between John G. Downey, Governor of the State, John Middleton, leading auctioneer, and Myles D. Sweeney, President Hibernia Bank, about politics (all prominent Douglas Democrats), July 15, 1861.

**September 1, 1868** - Isaias William Hellman founded Hellman, Temple and Co., Los Angeles's second bank; John Downey had already founded a bank with James Hayworth..... **April 3, 1871** - with John G. Downey founded Farmers and Merchants Bank (lent money to Harrison Gray Otis to buy the Los Angeles Times, to Henry Huntington to build Pacific Electric line); first incorporated bank in Los Angeles; **1956** - merged with Security First National Bank (formed by 1929 merger of Security Bank with Los Angeles First National Trust and Savings Bank, 8th largest bank in US); later named Security Pacific National Bank; **1992** - acquired by Bank of America.

<http://www.scripophily.net/farandmerban1.html>

The first Pony Express from St. Joseph brought a message of congratulation from President Buchanan to Governor Downey of California, which was first telegraphed to the Missouri River town. It also brought one or two official government communications, some New York, Chicago, and St. Louis newspapers, a few bank drafts, and some business letters addressed to banks and commercial houses in San Francisco - about eighty-five pieces of mail in all[7]. And it had brought news from the East only nine days on the road.

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?page=538&Print=120>

War Department.  
Washington, August 14, 1861.  
Hon. John G. Downey,

Governor of California, Sacramento City, Cal.

Please organize, equip, and have mustered into service, at the earliest date possible, four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of General Sumner.

Simon Cameron,  
Secretary of War.

By telegraph to Fort Kearney and thence by Pony Express and telegraph.  
[http://www.books-about-california.com/Pages/The\\_Story\\_of\\_the\\_Pony\\_Express/Story\\_Pony\\_Express\\_Chap\\_05.html](http://www.books-about-california.com/Pages/The_Story_of_the_Pony_Express/Story_Pony_Express_Chap_05.html)

IN ONE of the early chapters of these most reliable reminiscences mention was made of McFarland and his connection with J. G. Downey in the drug store, then the only one in the Angel city, and as I have a story to tell in which Mac played a part, it will be

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

in place to inform the reader who and what our present hero was. Doctor J. P. McFarland came from Tennessee in '49, and after one year of roughing in the mines, came here and formed a partnership with John G. Downey (the honored ex-Governor of California), who had preceded him by a half year or more. McFarland was a graduate of Jefferson College, a perfect specimen of the American backwoods gentleman in physical appearance, manners and general get up; in fact what we call a first rate fellow, and a politician withal. In '52 we sent Mac to our ambulatory capital as Representative, and in '53 we promoted him to the high dignity of Senator, and he might have gone higher but for having introduced a bill that would have been productive of much good, and was in reality a step in the right direction, notwithstanding it was a rear step in our onward march of civilization. As before stated, in the years referred to there were thousands of Mission Indians in

<http://www.webroots.org/library/usahist/ca/roarsca5.html>

This slander having been lately revived in California, possibly for some political motive, has called forth a letter from Governor Downey. The article from the *Los Angeles Express* and the reply of Governor Downey are here given. [264]

All old residents of the Pacific coast know that at the time of the breaking out of the rebellion a plot was formed by A. S. Johnston, then the military commander of this department, in connection with a number of prominent leaders (some of whom are still prominent in that party), to seize the United States Arsenal, distribute the arms to their partisans, and hand the State of California over to the Southern Confederacy. Unfortunately for the success of this precious scheme, it by some means leaked out, and the Government at Washington, comprehending the danger, lost no time in dispatching General Sumner to supersede Johnston, and save the State to the Union. General Sumner arrived here *incognito*, and immediately proceeded to Benicia, where he presented the order assigning him to the command, and demanded possession of the department. Sumner's appearance was like a thunder-clap to the conspirators, who had not anticipated such prompt action, and were not prepared to resist, so there was nothing for Johnston to do but submit, and turn over the command to Sumner, which he did, and himself left a few days after for the South, where he fell on the field of Shiloh.

**To the editor of the Express**

:

The above is taken from an article in the *Los Angeles Daily Republican*, and is written to subserve the local campaign; but it is at great sacrifice of the truths of history. During the term of General Albert Sidney Johnston I had constant intercourse with him on official business. Up to my term of office we had yearly wars with the Indians, in which the State annually incurred great expense. I took the ground that this was all wrong, that it was a Federal matter purely, and that the Federal troops on this coast were ample, at all times, for every Indian emergency. The executive office was flooded with petitions to call out troops. I applied to General Johnston for relief, which he immediately granted, and assured me that he had all the force and material required to quell the Indian disturbances, and that this service was about all that himself, officers, and men, had to perform on this coast. It was suggested by several citizens to me that there were 75,000 stand of arms at Benicia that might, in those disturbed times, fall into hands that would use them against the Government. I called on General Johnston in relation to these arms. He said, in the most impressive manner: "Governor, I have spent the greater part of my life in the service of my country, and while I hold her commission I shall serve her honorably and faithfully. I shall protect her public property, and not a cartridge or a percussion-cap shall pass to any enemy while I am here as her representative. There is," he said, "no man in the Union more sorely afflicted than I am at the occurrences now taking place. I do not know yet what position Texas may take. I have been long identified with Texas, her interests and public men, and her action may control my future destiny, but in any event I shall give due notice, and turn over intact my department to my successor." Now, I say it is not true that there was any plot to carry this State out of the Union. I was in constant communication with Mr. Seward and the Secretary of War. I raised all the troops that were required, without an expense of twenty-five cents to the State. The railroad was no factor in this question. No troops came here from the East. I raised them and sent them forward East, all under Democratic officers — the Arizona column, under Generals Carleton and West, and the Utah column, under Generals Conner, Evans, O'Neal, and others. General [265] Johnston did not leave the State in a few days after the arrival of Sumner. He remained in San Francisco a long time, and his house was the centre to which the army-officers tended in a social way. Long after his replacement by General Sumner I met the most of the Federal officers at his house, many of them men who distinguished themselves afterward during the war. It was long after this occurrence that General Johnston was in Los Angeles, and I believe still undetermined what course to pursue. So it is plain that the *Republican* is badly informed. I have the kindest letters from General Sumner and General Wright, his successors, thanking me for my aid in helping them to discharge their duties at this very critical period. Neither of these gentlemen believed that General Johnston had any knowledge of any plot on this coast; nor that there was any necessity for the unusual and precipitous manner which the War Department pursued. It is plain that, if the Department of War thought there was any danger, they would not have shipped the arms at Benicia East by way of Panama. They would have kept them here for us to put down rebellion.

John G. Downey

[http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:2001.05.0003:chapter=18&ie\\_sort=freq](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:2001.05.0003:chapter=18&ie_sort=freq)

**San Pedro** is a port neighborhood of the city of Los Angeles. In 1909, the city annexed San Pedro, which is a major seaport of the area. The town has grown from being dominated by the fishing industry to become primarily a working class town within the City of Los Angeles.

San Pedro is the largest port on the West Coast and the busiest port in the country.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

It is located at the southern end of the Palos Verdes Peninsula on the west side of San Pedro Bay. It was used by Spanish ships starting in the 1540s.

Regular settlement began in 1769 as part of the effort to populate California. The Rancho San Pedro is the site of the first Spanish land grant in Alta California, New Spain.

When New Spain won its independence from the Spanish Empire and Alta California became part of Mexico the town flourished. When the United States defeated Mexico in the Mexican-American war in 1848, the harbor was greatly improved and expanded under the guidance of Phineas Banning and John Gately Downey, the seventh governor of California.

San Pedro is a very popular location for filming. Among the many, many films shot in San Pedro are: Titanic, The Abyss, The Hunt for Red October, The Lost World: Jurassic Park, Amistad, Private Benjamin and To Live and Die in L.A.

San Pedro is an ethnically diverse community and home to the largest Italian-American community in Southern California centered on the "Via Italia" (South Cabrillo Avenue). This community is estimated at about 45,000 Italian-Americans.

San Pedro also has a large Croatian community in Los Angeles that has been present in San Pedro since the settlement began about 200 years ago. There are an estimated 35,000 Croats in San Pedro, making it the biggest Croatian community on the Pacific.

A large portion of San Pedro is also composed of Mexican-Americans, Hispanic immigrants and African-Americans with long-time roots in the community. Much of their populations are based in the older, east side of the community surrounding the downtown area and bordering the Port of Los Angeles.

Until February 1942, San Pedro was home to a vibrant Japanese immigrant community of about 3,000 people who lived in what had been described as a "typical Japanese Fishing Village" on Terminal Island (East San Pedro). They were expelled from San Pedro and their homes razed as part of the Japanese-American internment during World War II.

According to a 2009 Los Angeles Times "Mapping L.A." project, San Pedro's population is 78,405. The median household income is \$57,198. The ethnic composition is White (44.6%), Asian (4.5%), African American (6.0%), Latino (40.6%) and Other (4.4%). Among those notable who have called San Pedro home are: actor D.L. Hugley, western fiction writer, Louis L'Amour, jazz saxophonist Art Pepper and the band members of the eclectic punk rock band, the Minutemen.

San Pedro is located in the 25th Senate District, represented by Senator Roderick D. Wright, and in the 54th and 55th Assembly District, represented by Bonnie Lowenthal and Warren Furutani. San Pedro is located in California's 36th Congressional District, represented by Democrat Jane Harman and 46th District represented by Dana Rohrabacher.

Helene Pizzini is the new Honorary Mayor of San Pedro for 2009 - 2011

<http://senweb03.senate.ca.gov/focus/outreach/sd25/sd25-enewsletter-20090900.asp>

Gov. John G. Downey came to Los Angeles in December, 1850. He married Maria Jesus Guirado, of this city, February 10th, 1852. His distinguished career belongs to the history of California.

In 1850 this county was represented in the State Senate by Dr. A. W. Hope; followed in 1851 and 1852 by Stephen C. Foster. The Senators since have been: 1853, 1854, James P. McFarland; 1855, 1856, Benjamin D. Wilson; 1857, 1858, Cameron E. Thom; 1859, 1860, Andrew Pico; 1861, 1862, John R. Vineyard; 1863, 1864, Henry Hamilton; 1865 until 1868, Phineas Banning; 1869 until 1872, B. D. Wilson; 1873 and now, C. W. Bush.

You can't get deeply involved in the John Downey story without quickly coming to the conclusion that this story has its beginning with his mother, Bridget Gately, and the Gately family.

His character

His values

His principles

All the things that made his the remarkable man that he was

His father died when he was ten

Buchanan was elected US president. The American or Know-Nothing Party had nominated Zachary Taylor over Millard Fillmore. The Know-Nothing Party was an anti-foreigner, anti-Catholic political organization. Buchanan easily won the presidential election, gaining 174 electoral votes to Republican John C. Fremont's 141, and Fillmore's eight. Fremont failed to carry California after Jasper O'Farrell testified against him in the 1846 murder of 3 Californios.

1857 The Fort Tejon, Ca., earthquake, estimated at magnitude 8, ruptured ground for 225 miles from Parkfield to Tejon Pass. It killed 2 people and destroyed the Teyon Army post.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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(SFC, 5/21/01, p.A4)(SFC, 12/10/04, p.A4)

1859 Sep 13, David C. Broderick, a US Senator, faced David S. Terry, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, in a duel at Lake Merced. Broderick was hit in the chest and died af-ter 60 hours. Terry fled the scene and resigned his position the next day. He was charged with murder and was arrested Sep 23, but was not convicted. The weapons used were a pair of Bel-gian .58-caliber pistols on loan from an associate of Terry. Broderick's weapon was set with a hair-trigger, and misfired. The pistols sold at auction in 1998 for \$34,500.

(PI, 5/30/98, p.5A)(SFC, 11/25/98, p.B8)(Ind, 5/12/01, 5A)

1860 Jan 9, Milton Latham (1827-1882), the 6th governor of California, gave his inaugural address. Once Latham took office he had the legislature appoint him to Senator Broderick's seat.

(www.governor.ca.gov/govsite/govsgallery/h/biography/governor\_6.html)

1860 Jan 14, John Downey (1827-1894), the 7th governor of California, gave his inaugural address. As Lt. Governor, he succeeded Milton Latham as Governor. Downey's veto of the "bulkhead" bill (which would have allowed ownership of San Francisco's waterfront by a monopoly) made Downey a hero.

(www.governor.ca.gov/govsite/govsgallery/h/biography/governor\_7.html)

1860 Apr 3, The US Pony Express mail system began when one horse and rider carrying a bulging mail pouch began the 10 1/2-day run from San Francisco, Calif., to St. Joseph, Mo. Riders left St. Joseph, Missouri and SF, Ca., at the same time. They averaged 12 mph over 75-100 mile segments between 153 (190) change stations. The SF freight company of Russell, Majors and Waddell began the service. The ride from SF was a publicity stunt and never repeated. Sacramento was made the western terminus. The enterprise failed after only 18 months, however, due to mounting financial losses and competition from the ever-expanding telegraph network. Donald C. Biggs (d.2000 at 72), prof. of history at SF State, later authored "The Pony Express: Creation of the Legend."

(SFC, 2/15/97, p.D4)(AP, 4/3/97)(HN, 4/3/98)(SFC, 6/12/00, p.A24)(AH, 10/01, p.12)(SSFC, 1/3/10, DB p.46)

1860 Apr 13, 1st Pony Express reached Sacramento, Calif.

1861 Col. Agoston Haraszthy, a Hungarian immigrant to the US who settled in Sonoma, California, was asked by Calif. Governor John Downey to go to Europe and to find sample cuttings of the best European varieties of grapes. Haraszthy's methodology, personality and perseverance earned him the name of Father of California Wines.

1880 Milton Latham was forced to auction off his property in Menlo Park.

1889 Aug 14, David S. Terry, former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court (1857-1859), was shot by a bodyguard of Stephen Field, an associate justice of the US Supreme Court, after Terry slapped Field in the face at a railroad restaurant in Lathrop, Ca.

(SFC, 9/7/09, p.C6)([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_S.\\_Terry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_S._Terry))

1892 Heavy rains flooded the entire Central Valley and produced a lake that was some 250-300 miles long and 20-30 miles wide. Sacramento was under water for 3 months and in LA it rained for 28 straight days. Sonora had 102 inches by the end of Jan. Prof. William Brewer, the principal ass't. to state geologist Josiah Whitney, supposed that one-fourth of the taxable state property was under water. [some confusion here with the deluge of 1862]

1920 Los Angeles surpassed SF in population 576,673 to 506,676.

Gertrude Grubb Janeway, age 93, died Friday Jan. 19, 2003, at her home in Blaine, Tenn. She lived in a three-room log cabin bought for her by her husband in 1927. She was the last surviving widow of a Union soldier. Her husband, John Janeway, died in 1937 at age 91.

She married her husband in 1927 when she was 18 and he was 81. In an interview in 1998 she said they sparked for three years because her mother would not sign for her to marry. As a Union widow pensioner Janeway received \$70 per month from the Veterans Administration.

Still living is the last surviving widow of a Confederate soldier, Alberta Martin, age 95, of Elba, Ala. She was born in 1909 and was a widow from her first marriage by the time she was 21. She married her Civil War husband, William Jasper Martin in 1927 when he was 81.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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### **Last woman documented as a widow of a Confederate soldier**

#### **Maudie Hopkins, 1914 - 2008**

September 06, 2008 Valerie J. Nelson | Times Staff Writer

Maudie Hopkins, who was the last publicly documented widow of a Confederate soldier, having married an elderly Civil War infantryman when she was a teenager, has died. She was 93.

Hopkins died Aug. 17 at a hospital in Helena-West Helena, Ark., according to media reports.

A cause of death was not given, but she had been in failing health for several years.

She remained largely silent -- even among her family -- about her link to the 19th century War Between the States until four years ago, when an Alabama woman died and was reported to be the last surviving Confederate widow.:

Conditions in Ireland prior to the famine.

Conditions in California prior to the civil war.

John Martin Bridget Downey

Mary and Winifred Martin

John Martin dies.

Bridget remarries.

Downey children dates?

Martin Sisters to America to Bridget's brother in Baltimore

The Martin's go to school in Baltimore and become teachers

They go to Charles County Maryland looking for a place to start a boarding school for girls. They end up in Bryantown where the open Start St. Mary's Institute for Girls, a boarding school in St Mary's parish. It's a success.

There step father Dennis Downey dies in 1837, leaving their mother, Bridget Gately, a widow for the second time.

Gold in California and the unintended consequences for California, the country, and John Downey

NEW WORLD

Mary Surratt's daughter Miss Anna Surratt attended their school.

Winifred's doctor was Dr. George Dyer Mudd, a first cousin to Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd who set the leg of John Wilkes

Booth Dr George Mudd was close friend and confidant. He was the executor of her will

Downey siblings and Bridget their mother come to Maryland. There Eleanor Downey becomes a teacher.

Downey sibling come to California to join brother John.

Downey letter Seward and Spy

Winifred Martin's will. Dr Mudd again.

Dennis Downey dies 1837

John Downey to America 1842

Latin school

Pharmacist Cincinnati Washington DC Vicksburg

Gold Rush.

James Porter McFarland

Worked in SF

Money lending

Bought Cargo

3 weeks to sail to la.

First impressions

Confronted by bully with a knife.

Family come to America

Gets married to 15 year old becomes citizen know nothing movement

Enters politics

Appointments

Give appointment to brother Patrick. Patrick involved with Finneas Banning in

Pioneer oil

John spoke fluent Spanish, his wife was Spanish, many of the residents of LA were Spanish. He also has a foundation in Latin

Not a great politician in that he did not blow his own horn. Looked on the good things that he did as just part of his job.

Good administrator.

Left state with surplus.

Vetoed numerous corrupt bills.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Life between the time he arrived in Los Angeles and when he became governor.

He did not live in an Irish community and is not have the support of family or countrymen during this critical period. He was on his own and had to answer to no one. The east coast was ten days away for Ireland but the west coast was 90 days away for the east coast at this time. This helps to explain why he was so totally lost in the fog of history. That combined with the trauma caused by the famine in Ireland.

He as all alone totally by himself. His decisions were not influences by national of family in any way. Very few Irish in Southern California during this period compared to the San Francisco Area.

People like the Denn's were friends he was a witness at a marriage with Catherine Denn. Nicholas Denn from Kilkenny, Deen first lay owner of Santa Barbra Mission.

Despite the fact that there was great sympathy for Broderick, nevertheless Latham and Downey Lecompton Democrats were elected. 27 of the states 34 newspapers were against Lincoln.

Davis Terry was shot to death by the bodyguard for the Chief justice of the California Supreme Court. Wallace's daughter was married to Marvin Donahue, Annie Downey's stepson.

Lincoln is assassinated. His step-sisters live close to where J Booth was shot.

Downey sisters  
Downey Brothers-in-law  
Downey nephew  
Maria Downey information and articles  
Baroness Von Schroeder, Peter Donahue's daughter.  
Marvin Donahue Peter Donahue's son

Lincoln  
Lincoln letter national archives  
Lincoln Letter Rochester university.  
Not at the top of the Rochester letter. Seward and confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow

Lincoln civil war and Downey governor of California. Letters see Canley paper  
Lincoln heights first development in LA. Downey Street on of the streets in the development  
Mary Surratt's daughter  
Doctor Mudd executor of Winifred's will.  
John Wilks booth connection to Brayertown

Irish Midlander's of note in California during the Downey period.  
US Senator Eugene Casserly Mullingar  
Casserly letter  
Senator John Conness from Portumna, across the border in Galway  
Conniss Lincoln connection  
Yosemite bill by Conness  
Conness was a Lincoln confidant  
Conness was accused afterwards with being complicit in his assassination. He was cleared of any involvement  
Conness was a Lincoln Pall bearer  
Mayor of SF Frank McCoppin from Longford  
First police chef of SF Malachi Fallon from Athlone  
Jasper O'Farrell from Longford, surveyed San Francisco and most of the charter cities in Northern Californai

30% state population were Irish voters  
The Irish presence in California before admittance into the union. Opposite to our reception in the east.  
Lecompton Democrats  
Opposition to the , felt that violence was not the right solution. 642,000 deaths

JGD was the most remarkable Irishman ever to set foot on the North American continent.  
The right man in the right place at the right time  
Had the opportunity to make a fortune by going along with the Bulkheaders and again with the confederates but chose instead to

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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do what was right and best for the state and the country..

Came to California before it was admitted into the Union  
Arrived in Los Angeles in December 1850 right after the state was admitted into the Union  
NEW WORLD

245 South Main Street in Los Angeles, his home, his Bank & the Downey block  
The cathedral.

The generation after the civil war brought change to the west that took 300 years to achieve in the east. That was Downey's period of greatest influence in Los Angeles  
He was revered and had enormous prestige in So Cal. Being the first governor from the south.  
Hellman book, tower of gold. Talks about Downey's influence. And vision

Bronze bust in Ireland  
Bronz bust in Downey Ca.  
Proclamations  
Renewed interest.

JGD's will  
His notes to Bancroft  
Annie's will  
Winifred's will  
All were very Victorian and very catholic.  
Spoke Spanish fluently(Apparently learned in San Francisco before heading south)  
Married into a well established Spanish family.  
Mixed well with all the cultures.  
5'6" tall

City of Anaheim named for Annie.

Iron Men, by Richard H Dillon. The definitive biography about Peter Donahue and his brothers  
Most influential man in Los Angeles during that period the west advances as much as the east has in the precious 300 years.

John Downey Harvey, JGD's nephew, and the coast railroad.  
He died in 1947.

Confederates in Southland ride through the streets of LA in a show of support for the Confederate cause. Downey puts them down.

San Jose uprising governor Downey puts it down

Unrest in San Francisco, governor Downey puts it down.

Sad & tragic events

One generation wonder

JGD's grandfather died right after JGD'S father was born.

JGD's mother was widowed for the first time around the time his stepsister, Winifred was born.

JGD's father died the same year that his sister Annie was born.

JGD's brother Patrick died at the age of 47.

JGD's wife, Maria, did at the age of 46.

JGD's second wife, Rose died at the age of 47

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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JGD's sister Eleanor lost her first husband, Walter Harvey, at the age of 41

JGD's niece, Mary Harvey, was born after her father died and died herself at the age of five years. (1862-1867).

JGD's brother Patrick had no children

JGD's sister Annie had no children

JGD had no children of his own

JGD's sister Eleanor outlived three of her five children.

Bridger Gateley was widowed twice each time with a new born child

Downey father left young family

Mary Martin dies very young

Patrick Downey dies very young

Both of John Downey's wives die young

Eleanor's only daughter dies while still a child.

Eleanor out lived sons

Peter Donahue died suddenly and his son Marvin died very soon afterwards

No children

One generation wonder

In the thirty years following the civil war, the west coast accomplished what it had taken the east coast three hundred year to accomplish,

John Downey's grandfather died a year after his father was born. His mother lost her first husband the year their youngest daughter was born. John Downey's mother lost her second husband the year that Annie was born.

JGD, the most remarkable Irishman ever to set foot on the North American continent.

No other Irishman that has had the impact on his adopted homeland, on the State where he lived, or the on region of the state that he settled in, that he did.

John Downey would have vanished completely in the fog of history if it were not for the fact that the city of Downey in the heart of the Los Angeles Basin was named for him and if not for the great work done by Micheal Moore and the Taughmaconnell heritage group in his home parish of Taughmaconnell in Co. Roscommon.

The Irish experience in the west was a polar opposite to what they had endured on the East coast. The West, and particularly California, was a part of the world where they were warmly welcomed and did well from the outset.

Downey was the first to get to the very top and a trailblazer for many others during that period.

Born in the town land of Castlesampson, parish of Taughmaconnell, southern corner of Co. Roscommon, Just west of Athlone, on June 14, 1827, the second of four children born Bridget Gately and Dennis Downey, small farmers in the Irish midlands.

His father died when he is ten. That same year his mother gave birth to his youngest sibling, his sister Anna. Anaheim California named for her.

Come to America 1842 (Baltimore Maryland ) when he's fifteen to his uncle and step sisters.



# John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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School-priesthood- apprentices to a pharmacist.

To California when he's twenty two during the gold rush. That journey took 87 days.

Arrives in San Francisco-  
to the goldfields-  
back to San Francisco where he met James Porter McFarland -  
then LA. In December 1850

First Pharmacy in Los Angeles, only Pharmacy between San Francisco and Mexico-  
Point San Pedro-Port of Los Angeles-Santa Gertrude ranch Pioneer Oil

Collector of port- Treasury Agent -m Superintendent of Lighthouses-City Council- County Supervisor-California Assembly.  
Lieutenant Governor

Governor when he's 32 First Irish born governor of an American State. One of only two Irish born governors of American States.

Turbulent times in USA. Civil war- Against war, favor judicial or legislative remedy. Young Irish conscripted on both sides of the conflict.

Vulnerable times in California

Uncompressing honest integrity and credibility

Went against his own parties wishes.

State Capitol- Corner Stone

Pony Express- first dispatch from President Buchanan to governor Downey

First telegraph message sent for California Gov. Downey to President Lincoln

Political suicide....didn't care...Did what was best for State and Country.

Was never a politician in the conventional sense. Never tried to capitalize on his good work.

Grapes- California will be the leading producer...Oranges...Proposed University of California system - State library etc. Was a leading voice in promoting all when no one else in the state government interested.

Back to LA.

1862 floods followed by years of drought - cattle - sheep

Revered status as first Governor of Calf from SO/CAL

First Bank in Southern California 1886

Farmers and Merchants Bank with Isaias Hellmann

The Big three, Downey Banning Hellman

Reputation. *Spalding, no meeting of public spirited citizens was complete unless Governor Downey was present and he was generally called to preside.*

The Downey Block, the first major development in Los Angeles. Major tenants included the US Treasury- US Post office. Today it is the Center of the city. City hall courts-High rise towers Today's City Hall Courts Civic Center High Rise Towers and the Reagan Office Building. All located on and around the original Downey Block. By leasing parts of his Downey Block to the US Treasury, the US post Office and the courts he established the footprint for the present day civic center in the city of Los Angeles. When you see a photograph of the city, or fly into, or approach Los Angeles from any direction you'll see the high rise towers

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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that mark the Civic Center and the city center. Those building are all there because Downey chose to build his Downey Block there.

Involved in Harbor development -Rail development in the basin, Brought intercontinental rail to LA\_ Drives the golden spike at completion of that link-water-streetcar-development of communities-banking-oil-ranching Grapes- grapes-oranges-drought sheep- board of Trade  
nm

USC - Agricultural Park example of his foresight and vision foresight 1879

City of Downey 1873

Greets the first sitting president, R B Hayes, to visit Californi a 1880

Maria dies tragically 1883. Effect on him the rest of his life. They had no family.

To fully understand the impact that Maria's death has on John Downey, it is important to keep four facts in mind.

1. Maria was deathly afraid of traveling by trains and preferred to travel by boat instead.. The governor had persuaded her to take this train ride against her better judgment.
2. John Downey himself in 1872, had negotiated the railroad rout through the Tehachapi crossing where the accident occurred.
3. He heard her screams for help as she burned to death, and was helpless to save her
4. Her remains were initially misidentified and sent to San Francisco. When this mistake was discovered a special train was dispatched to bring her back to Los Angeles.  
It's not clear and very probable that her remains were never recovered, she was totally incinerated.

Did not return to La for three years following her death

Remarried in 1888 to Rosa Kelly

Rosa died Dec. 6, 1892, Aged 47 Yrs.

Died march first 1894

The most remarkable Irishman ever to set foot on the North American continent.

“Times make the man” The first part of his life

“Man makes the times” The second part of his life

Remarkable sisters Eleanor and Annie

Brothers-in-law, Ed Martin and Peter Donahue

Dynamic and powerful family unit

*Excerpted from Hubert Bancroft's, Chronicles of the Builders of the Commonwealth. One of the Kings.*

*William Spaulding, The History of Los Angeles City and County. “Governor Downey was the most prominent political and historical character of the American regime.”*

*The Irish Race in California and on the Pacific Coast, By Hugh Quigley.  
Published 1878.*

*Thomas F Prendergast, Forgotten Pioneers.*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

The Martin sisters lived in the area that John Wilkes Booth escaped through after he assassinated Lincoln.

Interesting link between the Martin Sisters and Mary Surratt.

[http://www.surratt.org/su\\_hist.html](http://www.surratt.org/su_hist.html)

<http://www.metnews.com/articles/2007/reminiscing120607.htm>

<sup>cxlviii</sup> President Rutherford B. Hayes was received in this city October 23, 1880, accompanied by Mrs. Hays, Gen. William T. Sherman and Secretary of War Alexander Ramsey. He was officially received by Gov. John G. Downey. The chief entertainment was a county fair then in progress at Agricultural Park now known as Exposition Park

<http://www.militarymuseum.org/LosAngelesMountedRifles2.html>

On the eve of the Civil War, Los Angeles was a city of between 3,500 and 4,000 inhabitants. Its people were a mixture of Mexicans, Indians, Americans (both Southern and Northern in origin) and German Jews. There were only a few Chinese (mostly engaged in laundering) and Blacks. The houses were all one-story, built of adobe (sun-baked bricks) with thick walls and flat roofs. There were very few two-story buildings - basically just the hotels with their associated first-floor saloons. Though a long-established center of population, Los Angeles was still a rough, frontier town. Most men habitually were armed with both revolver and Bowie knife. Even the clergy advised that it was "best to have arms after dark". There were in those days fifty to sixty murders per year. It could not be expected that such a population under such circumstances would not involve themselves in the major crisis of the day. Even before any states had seceded, in both the North and the South, militia units were "activating" and volunteer companies being formed. In some states the militia was well-organized and functional, but in most the militia was little more than a social group or "paper" organization. In California, the militia was a sham. During the 1850's companies had been formed for one purpose or another but quickly died out. The Adjutant General had kept little track or record of them. With the crisis growing in the East, Governor John G. Downey issued a call for the formation of militia companies "to preserve order". Few of the companies formed in response to his call ever amounted to anything, but one that did was the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles.

<http://www.brimstonepistoleros.com/gazette/june10.html>

As he was recalling Federal troops to the east, on July 24, 1861, the Secretary of War called on the Governor **John G. Downey**, to furnish one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the overland mail route from Carson City to Salt Lake City. Three weeks later four more regiments of infantry and a regiment of cavalry were requested. All of these were volunteers units recruited and organized in the northern part of the state, around the San Francisco Bay region and the mining camps, few recruits came from Southern California. These volunteers replaced the regular troops transferred to the east before the end of 1861.

<http://www.brimstonepistoleros.com/gazette/june10.html>

In July 1864, with many Douglas Democrats deserting their party over the war, the remaining Democrats formed a fusion party behind the former governor **John G. Downey**, opposed to continuation of the war, emancipation, the arrest of civilians by the militia, the suppression of free speech and of the press and the attempt make the Negro equal to the white man. The result in the September election was a second Republican governor of California, Frederick F. Low.

| 1864 Gubernatorial Candidate | Party      | Popular Vote | %    |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------|------|
| Fredrick F. Low              | Republican | 64,447       | 59.9 |
| John G. Downey               | Democratic | 44,843       | 41.1 |

Lincoln won the 1864 election with almost 59% in California

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

| 1864 Presidential Candidate | Party             | Popular Vote | %    |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|
| Abraham Lincoln             | Republican        | 62,053       | 58.6 |
| George B. McClellan         | Northern Democrat | 43,837       | 41.4 |

### Civil War Era forts and camps in California

<http://www.militarymuseum.org/CaliforniaColumn2.html>

#### California and the Civil War The California Column

by Lieutenant George H. Pettis

Commander, Company K, 1st Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers

Immediately after the first battle of Bull Run on July 24, 1861, Governor John G. Downey received from the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, a communication which said: "The War Department accepts, for three years, one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the Overland Mail Route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake City and Fort Laramie." This was the first official action towards organizing troops in California, and it required but a short time to raise the required number of men, and as fast as the companies were mustered in at the Presidio, near San Francisco they were transported across the bay to Camp Downey (in present day Oakland).

[http://www.nevadaobserver.com/Reading%20Room%20Documents/army\\_operations\\_in\\_nevada\\_1861.htm](http://www.nevadaobserver.com/Reading%20Room%20Documents/army_operations_in_nevada_1861.htm)

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,  
San Francisco, Cal., June 7, 1861.

His Excellency J. G. Downey,  
Governor of California, Sacramento, Cal.:

Sir: I have been informed of the organization and partial armament of a body of men in Carson Valley for the purpose of overawing the Union portion of the population there, and involving the Territory in the cause of secession and opposition to the Federal authority. Apprehension has been expressed of the seizure by these persons of certain arms at Carson City belonging to the State of California. I have therefore deemed it proper to take measures to secure them. The responsible agent will be furnished with the necessary receipts and the arms held subject to your orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. V. SUMNER,  
Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Commanding

Adjutant-General's Office,  
Washington, July 20, 1861.

Brig. Gen. E. V. Sumner,  
Commanding Department of the Pacific.

Direct your quartermaster and commissary to prepare in advance the stores necessary for the regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry accepted from California. Suggest to the Governor of California the propriety of making Major Carleton the colonel of the infantry regiment. Colonel Waite is prevented by ill health from accepting the command. It is desired that Major Carleton be placed in command. If any one else is made colonel of the Infantry regiment, he will be deprived of the command.

L. THOMAS,  
Adjutant-General.

Governor of California:

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 24, 1861.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

The War Department accepts for three years one regiment of infantry and five companies cavalry to guard the Overland Mail Route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake and Fort Lawrence. Colonel Waite will be put in command of department at Salt Lake City. General Sumner will detail mustering officer to muster in the men.

SIMON CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

Brig. Gen. E. V. Sumner,

*Commanding Department of the Pacific.*

Direct your quartermaster and commissary to prepare in advance the stores necessary for the regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry accepted from California. Suggest to the Governor of California the propriety of making Major Carleton the colonel of the infantry regiment. Colonel Waite is prevented by ill health from accepting the command. It is desired that Major Carleton be placed in command. If any one else is made colonel of the Infantry regiment, he will be deprived of the command.

L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant-Gen*

*Washington, August 14, 1861.*

His Excellency John G. Downey,

*Governor of the State of California, Sacramento City, Cal. :*

Sir : I have this day addressed you a dispatch requesting you to organize, equip, and have mustered into service, at the earliest date possible, four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of General Sumner.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIMON CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War*

*San Francisco. Cal., September 4, 1861.*

Governor John G. Downey,

*Sacramento City:*

Cavalry company organized and reported at Yreka September 4. Signed Charles McDermit. This company had better be ordered to report to Colonel Colton, in this city, immediately.

E. V. SUMNER,  
*Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Commanding.*

-----  
From the book "*Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867*"  
by Brig.-Gen. Richard H. Orton, pub. 1890  
Transcribed by © Kathy Sedler, June 2004, pp 5-14.

The "War Governors" of California were John G. Downey, Leland Stanford, and F.F. Low, and to their loyalty, zeal, and patriotism, and their readiness to respond to every call of the Government, is due the promptness with which the different regiments and battalions were organized.

During the exciting and tumultuous times existing upon the outbreak of the war the Legislature was loyal to the Government, and the following concurrent resolution was adopted:

### No. IVIII – CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

[Adopted MAY 17, 1861.]

*Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That the people of California are devoted to the Constitution and the Union of the United States, and will not fail in fidelity and fealty to that Constitution and Union now in the hour of trial and peril. That California is ready to maintain the rights and honor of the National Government at home and abroad, and at all times to respond to any requisition that may be made upon her to defend the republic against foreign or domestic foes.*

*When the war commenced the United States forces on the Pacific Coast were under the command of Brevet Brigadier-General Albert Sidney Johnston. It is supposed that there was some doubt as to General Johnston's loyalty, as he was a Southern man, and General Sumner was sent to relieve him of the command. The following are the orders and correspondence relating to the matter:*

MARCH 22, 1861

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

Brig.-Gen. E.V. SUMNER:

DEAR GENERAL: Prepare to sail from New York the first of the next month to relieve Bvt. Brig.-Gen. [A.S.] Johnston, in the command of the Pacific Department, say for a tour of some years.

The order to sail, etc., will reach you by the next mail, but remain unpublished till you are on the Pacific Ocean, for confidential reasons.

In haste, yours truly,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

-----  
[By telegram to farthest point west, and thence by pony express to California.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
July 24, 1861 – 8:30 P.M.

To the Governor of California:

The War Department accepts for three years one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the overland mail route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake and Fort Laramie.

Colonel Waite will be put in command of department at Salt Lake City. General Sumner will detail mustering officers to muster in the men.

SIMON CAMERON,  
Secretary of War.  
L. THOMAS,  
Adjutant-General.

[True copy.]

Under that call one full regiment of ten companies of infantry was raised, which became the First California Infantry, and five companies of cavalry, which became the First Battalion of the First California Cavalry. In 1863 seven more companies of cavalry were raised, making the First Cavalry a full regiment of twelve companies.

Soon after the second call was received by the Governor, as follows:

[By telegraph to Fort Kearney, and thence by pony express and telegraph.]

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1861

To JOHN G. DOWNEY, Governor of California:

Please organize, equip, and have mustered into service at the earliest date possible four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of General Sumner.

SIMON CAMERON,  
Secretary of War.

Under this second call the Second Cavalry and the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Regiments of Infantry were formed. In this connection the following dispatch is interesting:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., August 15, 1861.

To his Excellency, JOHN G. DOWNEY, Governor of State of California, Sacramento City, Cal.:

SIR: I have this day forwarded to your address a dispatch by telegraph and by pony express, to the effect that in filling the requisition given you August fourteenth for five regiments you will please make General D.D. Colton, of San Francisco, Colonel of a cavalry regiment, and give him the proper authority to organize as promptly as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIMON CAMERON,  
Secretary of War.

The commission was offered to General Colton and accepted, but he never completed the organization of the regiment and he was never mustered into the United States service.

Immediately upon receipt of the dispatches quoted above, Governor Downey issued the following:

[Proclamations.]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
SACRAMENTO, August 12, 1861.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

*In pursuance of a communication from the Secretary of War, dated July 24, A.D. 1861, "accepting for three years one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the overland mail route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake and Fort Laramie." I, John G. Downey, Governor of the State of California, do hereby call for volunteers for the above mentioned services. The forces will be organized in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States, and will be mustered into service at such times and places as may be directed by the commanding officer of the United States on this coast.*

JOHN G. DOWNEY,  
Governor.

-----  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
SACRAMENTO, August 23, 1861.

*Whereas, by an additional communication from the Secretary of War, bearing date August 14, A.D. 1861, to the Executive of this State directed, the President of the United States has called for four regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, to be placed at the disposal of Brig.-Gen. E.V. Sumner, U.S. Army, "organized, equipped, and mustered into service by the State of California, such call being made in pursuance of the Act of Congress passed July 19, 1861, entitled 'An Act to authorize the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting the public property.'"*

*Now, therefore, I, John G. Downey, Governor of the State of California and Commander-in-Chief of the militia, etc., of the same, do hereby authorize and call upon the citizens, as many as shall be necessary to fill up the preceding requisition, to immediately form and organize themselves into "volunteer companies," in accordance with the directions and requirements stated in Sections 17, 18, and 19 of the Statutes of this State, entitled "An Act in relation to the militia of this State," approved May 9, 1861.*

*Said companies will be accepted and mustered into service according to the reception, by the Adjutant-General of the State, of the certificate of organization mentioned in Section 18 of said Act, and reported by that officer to the Commander-in-Chief, the infantry companies to consist of any number between eighty-three and one hundred and one, and the cavalry companies of any number between seventy-nine and ninety-five, officers inclusive; the commissioned officers of each company to consist of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, and one Second Lieutenant.*

*The Commander-in-Chief will proceed forthwith to organize the regiments aforesaid out of said companies according to their priority and in conformity to law. While the Act of Congress aforesaid requires the "Governors of States furnishing volunteers to commission the field, staff, and company officers requisite," the Commander-in-Chief will in all cases give preference to the officers elected by the respective companies, provided that they are competent and pass examination before the Military Board already appointed by the United States officer commanding Pacific Division, San Francisco.*

*Volunteer companies already organized and commissioned are expected to report forthwith to the Adjutant-General, tendering their services to meet the requirements of this proclamation. Companies tendering their services will expressly state whether they are infantry or cavalry.*

*In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed.*

*Done at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of August, in the year of our Lord 1861.*

JOHN G. DOWNEY,  
Governor

Attest: JOHNSON PRICE, Secretary of State.

*The Governor, in his message to the Legislature, said as follows regarding the requisitions made upon him:*

### THE STATE'S CONTINGENT

*Two requisitions were made upon me by the Secretary of War for troops for the service of the General Government, the first bearing date of July 24, 1861, for one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry, and the other dated August 14, 1861, for four regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry.*

*The Legislature having adjourned without placing any funds at the disposal of the Executive to meet such contingency, and the language of these requisitions urging all possible dispatch, I at once issued my proclamations calling out the required force. It entailed much labor upon this department, for which it feels fully compensated by the character of the officers selected and the soldierly bearing and character of the men who compose the rank and file.*

*The whole contingent as organized is composed of our best citizens – men of character and means from all ranks and pursuits of life – and will achieve an honorable fame for our State and render good service to the nation when called into active duty. In organizing this force commissions were conferred upon officers in the regular army of the United States as Colonels, in order to give efficiency and discipline to our raw recruits. By an order from the War Department I was notified that these officers could not be permitted to retain position in the volunteer service, as they were ordered to the scene of hostilities to join their respective regiments. Two of these officers, Colonels Kellogg and Judah, rendered much aid in raising and organizing the Fourth and Fifth Regiments of Volunteers, at great expense and trouble to themselves, without being permitted to enjoy the honors or emoluments arising therefrom.*

*The cavalry regiment was raised before Colonel Smith arrived to take command of the volunteers; he now has charge of the troops of the State along our southern frontier. I would recommend that appropriations be made to compensate the officers*

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

mentioned for the personal expenses necessarily incurred by them and the important services they have rendered the State – say \$2,500.

A large amount of business has been entailed upon the Adjutant-General in clerical labor and services attendant upon the extraordinary duty connected with and occasioned by the raising of our contingent, and I would recommend an appropriation of \$1,500 as a just compensation therefor.

The militia law of last year is found to work well, and meets the expectations of its advocates. It declares that all necessary expenses arising under its operation shall be defrayed out of the General Fund; but the Legislature failed to make any appropriation. It is hoped that a small appropriation will be made to meet the inconsiderable amounts already audited, as well as the future contingent expenses for the year. Too much importance cannot be placed upon the organization of our militia, in order that efficiency may be attained, and that a military spirit may be infused into our citizens. It cannot be expected that volunteers will drill and parade without arms. For these reasons I recommended last year a military tax for rent of armories and the purchase of arms. We should, therefore, have at least a hundred thousand stands of arms distributed among our militia; instead of this there are not three thousand, and many of these are of antique style and character, of but little use for modern warfare.

<http://www.yubaroots.com/Civil%20War/record.htm>



At the outbreak of the Civil War, the Western States were effectively walled off from the East Coast by distance, by the Rocky Mountains, by the deserts in the Great Basin, and the mighty Sierra Nevada Mountain range. Access from the Southern states was relatively easy however, through the southern route, shown in blue. Had California come into the Civil War with the Confederate States the Confederates would have controlled all of the territories West of the Rocky's as well as the entire Pacific Coast of North America. All of the considerable resources and assets associated with that vast landmass would have been available to bolster and finance the Confederate war effort. Once California sided with Lincoln and the Union effort all of this was lost. It was their inability to adequately finance the war that ultimately led to the collapse of the confederacy.

Street Names; Downey Avenue. <http://www.eastlosangeles.net/streetnames.html>



# John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

## State Capitals of California

|                                    |                                       |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">San Jose</a><br>1849   | <a href="#">Vallejo</a><br>1852       | <a href="#">Benicia</a><br>1853    |
| <a href="#">Sacramento</a><br>1854 | <a href="#">San Francisco</a><br>1862 | <a href="#">Sacramento</a><br>1869 |

SEARCH KEY TO THE CITY

Article published Irish newspapers following the dedication of the Downey bust at Downey City Hall.

### The City of Downey Honors Their Founder

#### Bronze Bust of John Gately Downey Unveiled

December 7, 2010 DOWNEY CALIFORNIA: Precisely, on the one hundred and sixtieth anniversary of his arrival in Los Angeles, the City of Downey unveiled a bronze bust honoring their city's founder, John Gately Downey. John Downey was born and raised in Castlesampson, in the parish of Taughmaconnell, just west of Athlone. The likeness of Governor Downey, that was unveiled, matches exactly the bust dedicated to him in Taughmaconnell just seven weeks prior. The unveiling in Downey was timed to coincide with the swearing in of the new Mayor of the city and the new City Council. The fact that this date also marked the anniversary of his arrival was an unintended but greatly appreciated coincidence. So impressive a man was John Downey that the naming of this city in the heart of Los Angeles County for him would not have ranked near the top of his impressive list of accomplishments. However, but for the fact that the city was named for him, he would undoubtedly have faded away completely in the fog of history.

Former Mayor and current councilman, Mario Guerra, noted in his remarks that the impetus to honor Governor Downey here was initially inspired by a conversation that he had with Gene O'Sullivan, a representative from the Taughmaconnell Heritage Group, here in California, telling him about their plans to honor John Downey with a bronze bust in his birthplace. Deeply interested in the history of Downey, Mayor Guerra immediately set about presenting his idea to do something similar to the City Council for their consideration. Mayor Guerra's recommendation was met with unanimous approval, and, on November 24, 2009, the city-appointed Art in Public Places Committee recommended that the next art project in the City of Downey should be a statue dedicated to Governor Downey. Community Services Director, Thad Phillips, was then asked to recommend a consultant specializing in public art who would provide a cost estimate and recommend qualified artists to compete for the job. This ultimately led to Mark Rode, the sculpture who created the Bronze bust for the Taughmaconnell group, being commissioned to cast a similar bronze for the City of Downey.

Recalling his first impressions upon his arrival in Los Angeles County in December of 1850, John Downey wrote, "Los Angeles was the most pock marked town your ever saw. But the country was lovely The month was December and the flowers were in bloom, and the appearance of the whole county was beautiful. I made up my mind to stay here" Fittingly, the unveiling took place under crystal clear blue skies, with temperature in the low eighties, and flowers were blooming everywhere, just as John Downey had described it himself one hundred and sixty years earlier.

The unveiling ceremony began with a bagpiper playing a selection of Irish airs. That was followed by the invocation given by Rev. Msgr. David O'Leary, who hails from County Cork. A flag salute was then conducted by Mr. John Vincent, president of the Downey Historical Society. The Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Los Angeles, Mr. Finbar Hill, followed with some remarks and recounted many of the remarkable achievements realized by John Downey during his lifetime. Mr. Hill, a County Cork native, also mentioned the financial difficulties that were being experienced by both Ireland and California at the present moment in time. He noted, optimistically, that he was confident that both Ireland and California would both emerge from this difficult period and regain footing in the near future. Following additional comments by current Mayor Anne Bayer, Mayor Pro Tem, Luis Marquez, Councilmen David Gafin and Roger Brossmer, the ceremonial unveiling took place.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The bust was placed prominently outside the main entrance to City Hall and in a location where everyone who enters through the main entrance will come in contact with it. A plaque installed below Governor Downey's image reads as follows:

Seventh Governor of California and the first of foreign birth. Born June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1827 in County Roscommon, Ireland. Immigrated to the United States in 1842. Settled in Los Angeles in the early 1850's where he was active in business, local and state government. Governor (1860-62) during commencement of the Civil War and preserved California in the Union. His banking and railroad influence helped build the economic foundation of Southern California. A founder of the University of Southern California. City of Downey named in his honor in 1873. Died March 1, 1894.

\* Article published in a number of Irish newspaper following the event.

**From:** [Perre Magness](#)

**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2010 11:50 AM

**To:** [ejosull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejosull@sbcglobal.net)

**Subject:** John Downey

Mr. O'Sullivan - -

I was surprised and interested in your letter. I wrote to the Downey Historical Society at the request of my father, who became interested in geneology as he got older. His MacFarland ancestors were the most interesting branch of the family. I will tell you what I know about James Porter MacFarland.

The first MacFarlands in the United States were brothers, John Porter (1740-1824) and Thomas. As Highland Scots, they hated the British, and arrived just in time to enlist in the Continental Army and fight at Yorktown. For their army service they were given land grants in what would become Tennessee. John came over the Appalachians with the first settlers of Fort Nashboro (now Nashville) in 1782. He married Nancy Menees, daughter of another pioneer. Their son, James Menees MacFarland, was the second white child born at Fort Nashboro in 1784.

They moved to his land grant in Wilson County in 1803. Their son James Menees MacFarland married Dicey (short for Euridyce) Bilbro, and had nine children. James Porter was born in 1820. He and his brother John rode horses from Tennessee to Philadelphia, and graduated from the Philadelphia Medical School. I have a portrait of him done in the 1840s, his medical degree, and his mortar and pestle.

James went to California in the 1849 gold rush, intending to be a doctor not a miner, and was apparently paid in gold. My Uncle Alfred MacFarland, a great storyteller, said, "He went to California to do good, and he done well." He practiced medicine in California, opened the drug store on the plaza in Los Angeles with John Downey, and invested in land in several states. He served in the California legislature. For some reason he decided to return to Tennessee in 1859, just in time for the Civil War. But he didn't fight. He married Eulalia Jane Lonsdale Cowan and had children in 1861, 1863, 1865, 1867, 1869, 1871, and 1875, so he certainly wasn't far from home.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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The first child was a daughter named Jimmie, then he proceeded to have six sons. One of the sons died in infancy. When he died in 1901, he left land in Texas to two of his sons, buildings in downtown Nashville to two sons, and the original farm in Wilson County to my grandfather, Lonsdale Porter MacFarland. My father, also named Lonsdale MacFarland, inherited the farm; my sister and I sold the farm after his death in 1994. No one had ever owned the land except the Indians and the MacFarlands.

James Porter MacFarland's first son was named John Downey, and Governor Downey was his godfather. John Downey MacFarland also got a medical degree, from Philadelphia, I believe. His godfather took him on a trip around the world; I have a large scrapbook with pictures of Egypt and Syria (the kind of large print sold to tourists, not ones that they personally took) that comes from that trip, but I do not know the date. John Downey MacFarland died young, having moved to Arkansas to practice medicine, and was never married.

I would be very interested in any information you have about the partnership with Governor Downey. I seem to remember seeing a picture of the store on the plaza in some California history book, and found several references in California history books. I am particularly interested as I am a historian, having written ten books about the history of Memphis, Tennessee, also a weekly newspaper column about local history for sixteen years.

I wish I knew more - about how James traveled to California, how exactly he lived while he was there, his service in the legislature. But I hope this gives you a bit more information.

Sincerely,

Perre MacFarland

James Porter MacFarland's first son was named John Downey, and Governor Downey was his godfather. John Downey MacFarland also got a medical degree, from Philadelphia, I believe. His godfather took him on a trip around the world; I have a large scrapbook with pictures of Egypt and Syria (the kind of large print sold to tourists, not ones that they personally took) that comes from that trip, **but I do not know the date**. John Downey MacFarland died young, having moved to Arkansas to practice medicine, and was never married.

Los Angeles Rail, YouTube video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6YZJW7zUJ8>

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### **Downey extended Family tree**

**Denis Downey**, Grandfather of John Gately Downey. (Honest Jack)

Born Castlesampson town land, South County Roscommon, Ireland., 1734.

Died September 20th, 1796. Aged 62 years.

**Dennis Downey**, father of John Gately Downey.

Born Castlesampson town land, South County Roscommon, Ireland. 1795

Died in Castlesampson in 1837. Aged 42 years.

**Bridget Gately Downey**, the mother of John Gately Downey.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Born 1790, County Roscommon Ireland, Died Bryantown Maryland September 20th. 1857 aged 67 years

**Mary Martin**, step sister to John Gately Downey.

Born in south County Roscommon, Ireland. Date of birth unconfirmed but believed to be 1818. Died Bryantown Maryland, January 17th. 1855. Aged, about 37 years

**Winifred Martin**, stepsister of John Gately Downey.

Born in South County Roscommon Ireland, Born April 11th.1819. Died in Bryantown Maryland April 4th. 1897. Aged 78 years

**Patrick Downey**, oldest sibling of John Gately Downey.

Born in Castlesampson town land, South County Roscommon Ireland, 1820.

Died in Los Angeles California, 1867

The year of his birth, taken from his headstone may not be accurate. It's likely that he was born later then the date shown. Aged, 47 years or so.

**Walter Harvey**, brother in law to John Gately Downey, born in Georgia in 1820, died 1861 in Los Angeles California, at the age of 41 years. .

**John Gately Downey**, Seventh Governor of California.

Born Castlesampson town land, South County Roscommon, Ireland. June 24th, 1827.

Died Los Angeles California March 1st, 1894. Aged 67 years.

**Eleanor Downey Martin**, Sister of John Gately Downey.

Born in Castlesampson town land , South County Roscommon Ireland, on September 8th, 1828.

Died in San Francisco California on July 6th, 1928. Aged 100 years.

**Edward Martin**, husband of Eleanor Downey, brother-in-law of John Gately Downey

Born in Enniscorty County Wexford Ireland in 1819.

Died in San Francisco California, in 1880. Aged, 61 years.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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**Annie Downey Donahue**, sister of John Gately Downey.

Born in Castlesampson town land , South County Roscommon Ireland, 1837.

Died in San Francisco California on December 12, 1896. Aged 60 years

**Peter Donahue**, husband of Annie Downey, brother-in-law of John Gately Downey.

Born in Glasgow Scotland of Irish parents on January 11th, 1822.

Died in San Francisco November 26th,1885. Aged 63 years.

**Rose V Kelley**, second wife to John Gately Downey.

Born in Ireland in 1845. Died in Los Angeles California, on December 6th. 1892. Aged 47 years.

**Maria J Guiardo**, John Gately Downey's first wife, born, 1837.

Died tragically in the Tehachapi train disaster, January 20th, 1883. Aged 46 years.

**John Downey Harvey**, (1860-1947) nephew of John Downey and first born child to Eleanor Downey

**Mary Harvey**, (1862-1867) niece to John Downey, and first and only daughter born to Eleanor Downey

**Andrew Martin**, nephew to John Downey and first born son to sister Eleanor and Edward Martin 1870-1899

**Peter Martin**, nephew to John Downey ,second born son to sister Eleanor and Edward Martin1871-1915

**Walter Martin**, nephew to John Downey, the third born son to sister Eleanor and Edward Martin(1874-1957

<sup>cl</sup> **The Irish Experience on the West Coast in the Early Days.**

**John Downey** more than anyone else epitomized the Irish experience on the West Coast of America during the States infancy. The Irish experience on the West coast was completely different then that experienced by those Irish who settled in the Eastern Cities. Because the Spanish, and the Mexican's after them, were all Catholics, the Irish fit into the far west and the southwest very easily. Neither the Spanish nor the Mexicans trusted Anglos and this gave the Irish a preferred status. Many of the great ranchos grants were put into trusted Irish hands as a result. Nowhere is that more evident than in the northern part of the state.

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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Downey's status as the first Irish born governor of an American state made him the preeminent Irishman of the era. The fact that he returned to his home base in Los Angeles after serving his term as governor, still a very young man, he was just 34 years of age, extended his influence over that most important of all generations, the one immediately following the civil war.

In that same generation, **Eugene Casserly**, from Mullingar in county Westmeath was a US Senator from California. Casserly was a great supporter of Governor Downey and they were lifelong friends and allies. Another US Senator from California in that period was **John Conness**. He was one of Downey's rivals within the Democratic Party. Senator Conness was from Portumna in County Galway. It was Senator Conness who carried the legislation that created Yosemite Park. Mount Conness in the park is his permanent monument for that achievement.

**Jim Fair**, one of the four Irish Bonanza Kings (**Mackey, Fair, Flood and McLaughlin**) of Comstock fame served as a US Senator from Nevada. Fair is buried alongside Downey in Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma CA.

When he became the Mayor of San Francisco during that same time period, **Frank McCoppin** from County Longford became the first Irish born Mayor of a major American city

**Jasper O'Farrell**, also from County Longford, but educated in Dublin, designed and surveyed the streets of San Francisco. He alone is responsible for surveying most of the large land holdings (ranchos) in the northern part of the state, and it was he who laid out many of the other charter cities around San Francisco Bay. His character and his integrity were so revered that an affidavit signed by him ended the political career of California's first US Senator **John C Fremont**. O'Farrell also served in the state legislature.

The first police chief of San Francisco was **Malachi Fallon** from Athlone County Roscommon.

In the Southland, two of Downey's great Irish compatriots were **Mathew Keller** from County Cork, and the **Den Brothers** from Kilkenny. Keller settled Malibu and Topanga Canyon. While the Den's settled much of what is today's Santa Barbara.

When the missions were secularized, Nicholas Den purchased the Mission Santa Barbara and the adjoining land. Later he donated it back to the church.

### *Those Amazing Donahue Boys*

Peter Donahue was married to Anna Downey in 1862. This union merged two of the great families in early California history. Anna's brother, John Downey, was one of the most influential people in the development of the Los Angeles Basin and Peter Donahue was likewise, one of the major visionaries in the development of the San Francisco Bay Area. Together, their foresight and energy shaped the State of California for generations to come.

Read: Iron Men by Douglas Dillon. The story of the Donahue Brothers

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# John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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## HOW CALIFORNIA WAS KEPT IN THE UNION & THE CITY OF ANGELS WAS BUILT

### THE STORY OF JOHN GATELY DOWNEY

by Mark Calney, December 15, 2001

Most Americans know absolutely nothing about what occurred in California during the U.S. Civil War, or if California was even a state at that time. After all, there were no major battles fought there. In 1860, San Francisco could barely be called a city, and Los Angeles was merely a tiny, land-locked, cow town. There were no modern ports, transportation systems, schools, communications, or other infrastructure that one might find in the Eastern cities of the time. Hollywood would have to wait for more than fifty years to be invented. Yet, without California being held in the Union, against national and international efforts to break her away, the Western flank of President Lincoln's armies would not be the Pacific Ocean, but rather, at best, the Rocky Mountains. What happened in California created a crucial basis for the Union victory, and thereby the continued existence of the republics of both the United States and Mexico.

Though most historians cite Leland Stanford as the "Civil War Governor" of California, it was the Irish-born John Gately Downey who was singularly responsible for keeping California in the Union, against what otherwise would have been a pro-Confederate domination of the state and region. Additionally, it was Downey who, after the Civil War, led the political organizing which created Los Angeles as a major urban center and U.S. gateway to the Pacific Rim. To achieve those goals, Downey provided real leadership, that included acting against his own political party, knowing it would cost him any future political "career." He did not practice the present day politics of the pragmatic politician – the consummate, gutless arbiter of compromise and spin, who, in his shameless pursuit of the "popularity of the polls," loses his soul and any hope that he could positively affect history. This is a lesson that should not be lost on the "practical politicians" and citizens of today. If today's California Governor, Gray Davis, were in need of a homegrown, role model to deal with the current infrastructure and political crisis facing the state, the Civil War Democrat, Governor John Downey, would provide an excellent example.

#### The British threat to California

In order to appreciate the actions of Downey and his allies, in their efforts to keep California, Oregon and the Pacific Coast territory in the Union, it is crucial to understand the historical efforts of the British Empire to control this area. Strategically, if the Confederates or their allies had been able to control or neutralize California, then the Western flank of the Union forces, beginning essentially at the Missouri River, would not have been secure. The oligarchic strategists of the British Empire knew that, in order to continue and extend their domination of Asia and the Americas, they had to contain the spread of the American System of government and economics. Stopping that American Manifest Destiny, which was not merely some simple idea of a territorial imperative, meant an imperial domination of the Pacific Coast.

The earliest published designs of British interest in California occurred in 1839 with the publication of *History of California* by Alexander Forbes, the British Vice-Consul at Tepic, the capital city of Mexico's western State of Nayarit. Read widely in the US and Britain, as a popular history of the state, Forbes was forthright about his intent to organize the colonization of California with British subjects. In a proposal that will sound all too familiar to the current citizens of Brazil and other Ibero-American nations today, Forbes proposed that Mexico cede their province of California to the British as exchange for payment of a \$50,000,000 debt of Mexican bonds held by British investors. The creditors would be organized into a company, similar to the British East India Company, to exercise sovereign control over California.

The basis of Forbes' proposal stems from an official agreement entered into by Britain and Mexico in 1837. The terms of the agreement provided that English holders of bonds, in lieu of cash payments, would be given land. During the summer of 1841, Sir Richard Pakenham, the British Minister to Mexico, wrote:

I believe there is no part of the world offering greater natural advantages for the establishment of an English colony than the province of Upper California; while its commanding position on the Pacific, its fine harbours, its forests of excellent timber for ship building as well as for every other purpose, appear to me to render it by all means desirable from a political point of view, that California, once ceasing to belong to Mexico, should not fall into the hands of any power but England;

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American sentiments to such a proposition were far from congenial, as the Baltimore *American* wrote at the time:

The vast indebtedness of Mexico to Great Britain is well known. As a convenient mode of canceling her obligations, nothing is more probable than that the former would willingly part with a territory which she cannot occupy, and to which, in the course of things, she could not long extend even a nominal claim. The policy of the British government looks toward nothing more favorable than to the acquisition of territory in different parts of the world. The possession of California would strengthen her in carrying out her pretensions to the Oregon country, which she not only claims, but already occupies by the agency of trading companies. The whole coast of the Pacific would thus be in the grasp of a powerful nation – a nation that never lets slip an occasion of extending the limits of her domains. To make the Rocky Mountains the boundary of the United States on the west; to hold the spacious valley between the ridge and the ocean, running down to the bottom of the peninsula of California, thus possession the seaboard, by means of which the commerce with China and the East Indies would be secured to British interests – this would be an attainment worthy of no small effort on the part of Great Britain.

Similar anti-British articles regarding California appeared in the American press over the next several years. British actions began to prove the charges accurate.

In September 1842, Commodore Thomas Ap Catesby Jones, head of the Pacific Squadron of the U.S. Navy was stationed in the harbor of Callao, Peru when he received a dispatch from John Parrott, the American Consul at Mazatlan, Mexico. Parrott had been led to believe that war between the U.S. and Mexico had started. This was coupled with rumors that Mexico, supposedly having declared war, was about to cede California to Great Britain. If the British Pacific fleet, under the command of Admiral Thomas, was to be prevented from seizing California, Jones had to move fast. Without having had direct communication with Washington for nine months, Commodore Jones, after consulting with the U.S. Chargé at Lima and his own officers, acted on his responsibility and ordered his fleet to make full speed to Monterey, the acting-capital and major port of California. En route, Jones wrote a dispatch to the Secretary of Navy stating:

The Creole affair, the question of the right of search, the mission of Lord Ashburton, . . . the well founded rumor of a cession of the Californias, and lastly the secret movements of the English naval force in this quarter . . . have all occurred since the date of your last dispatch. Consequently I am without instructions . . . upon what I consider a vital question to the United States . . . [namely] the occupation of California by Great Britain under a secret treaty with Mexico.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. frigate *United States* and the sloop *Cyane* entered Monterey harbor. Twenty-four hours after seizing control of the town and declaring U.S. occupation, and having verified no presence of a British threat, Jones returned Monterey to its local inhabitants.

Jones' concerns were not without foundation. For months preceding this incident, Waddy Thompson, the American Minister in Mexico City, had been sending messages to Daniel Webster, the Secretary of State, and President Tyler, about British intrigues over California. On July 30, 1842, Thompson wrote the following to Webster:

I have information upon which I can rely that an agent of this government is now in England negotiating for the sale, or what is precisely the same things, the mortgage of Upper California, for the loan of fifteen millions.

The imperialist designs of the British Empire had been in the works for some time. Three months earlier, during March 1842, a letter was posted to the British Cabinet from Honolulu, Hawaii. It's author was Sir George Simpson, head of the Hudson Bay Company, which had recently extended its Oregon-based interests into California and had established a trading post in San Francisco. Concerning California, he wrote:

This country from its natural advantages, possessing, as it does, the finest harbor in the Northern Pacific, in the Bay of San Francisco . . . might become invaluable to Great Britain as an outlet to her surplus population, as a stronghold and protection of her commerce and interests in these seas . . . and as the principal people in the country and indeed the whole population seem anxious to be released from the Republic of Mexico . . . I have reason to believe they would require very little encouragement to declare their independence of Mexico and place themselves under the protection of Great Britain. Indeed it has been communicated to me, confidentially, and I feel authorized to say that the presence of a British cruiser on the coast with a private assurance of protection from Great Britain and appointments being given to the present higher authorities and officials which would not involve a larger sum than a



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few thousand pounds per annum, would be sufficient inducement to declare themselves independent of Mexico and claim the protection of Great Britain.

On January 30, 1843, Waddy Thompson communicated the status of the situation to the U.S. government:

I know that England has designs on California and has actually made a treaty with Mexico securing to British creditors the right to lands there in payment of their debts and that England will interpose this treaty in the way of a cession of California and that in ten years she will own the country.

All of the subsequent successors in charge of the US legation in Mexico, communicated identical concerns to Washington over the danger of British control of California.

On July 10, 1845, a dispatch was sent from Monterey, California to the State Department of James Buchanan (received in Washington in October) by Thomas O. Larkin concerning British activities in California. Larkin would also become the chief source of intelligence on California for Senator John Calhoun and his Southern partisans, such as William Gwin. Larkin's dispatch outlined the role of the Hudson Bay Company and the appointment of a British agent who would operate in a consular capacity to undertake secret plans against the U.S. in California.

That British agent was James Alexander Forbes (the nephew of Alexander Forbes, who had written the *History of California*), a Scottish-born British subject who had first arrived in California in 1826, and later returned as British Consul stationed at the Mission Santa Clara. One of his communications to his uncle, the British Consul, in Tepic on September 4, 1844 stated:

I feel myself in duty bound to prevent this fine country from falling into the hands of any other foreign power than that of England. I repeat that it is impossible for Mexico to hold California for a much longer period, and if the Govt. of Great Britain can with honor to itself and without giving umbrage to Mexico, extend its protection to California. . .

While Forbes spent his time zealously organizing local *juntas* in the region which were favorable to the British, Mexican diplomatic representatives were meeting in London with their counterparts discussing various schemes to thwart United State's influence on the Pacific Coast. One proposal was that if war broke out between America and Mexico, then Britain, while seeming to remain a peaceful non-participant, would be made custodian of California. Another called for the cession of 50,000,000 acres of California land to a British company. However, the one design which had the longest operational effect was put forward by Lord Aberdeen (George Hamilton-Gordon), head of the Foreign Office. It entailed the establishment of an independent government in California that would be recognized by Mexico and guaranteed by France and Great Britain. Aside from any short term alliances that Britain made with Mexico, its long term interests can be seen in the 1844-45 Micheltorena revolt and the more famous "Bear Flag Revolt" led by the scurrilous U.S. Captain John C. Fremont in 1846 which had proclaimed a "California Republic."

In 1846, the influential *American Whig Review*, wrote that British designs on California so threatened the security of the United States that Britain must be prevented from such actions under any circumstance. The republican approach to solving this problem was typified by John Quincy Adams, who had proposed that the United States purchase Upper California from Mexico, similar to the Louisiana Purchase. But any such reasonable proposal was destroyed by the advent of the Mexican-American War.

When President Polk began the Mexican-American War in 1846, Congressman Abraham Lincoln was correct in attacking the action as an unwarranted aggression whose purpose was to expand slave interests in the U.S. westward, via occupied Mexican territory. Those "slave interests," of course, included the British who, at the beginning of the conflict, in June of 1846, dispatched their Pacific fleet under Admiral Seymour from San Blas to California. However, on July 7, 1846, the aspirations of the British and the founders of the "California Republic" evaporated when U.S. Commodore Sloat landed his men in Monterey, lowered the "Bear Flag," and took formal possession of California. When Admiral Seymour arrived in Monterey, he saw the American flag flying over the town and American war ships in the harbor. British strategy towards California, like Seymour's fleet, changed its course, but not its objective.

**"The World Rushed In"**

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The republican elite of the United States, had long understood the threat posed to the republic by foreign designs on control of the Pacific Coast of North America, especially those of the Britain Empire. It was well know by Whig Party leaders, such as Henry Clay, that the domestic "secessionist movement," which centered around the alliance of Northern, New York-based, financial houses and the Southern, plantation "aristocracy," was entirely the fabrication of British operations, all united around their battle cry of "Free Trade," otherwise know as slavery.[1]

One of the main tactics used to counter this threat, as witnessed earlier in the case of Marcus Whitman and the opening of the Oregon Trail during the 1830s, was to move a significant number of citizens to the West Coast territories. In opposition to the fraud of Free Trade, all American System economy proponents, such as Clay, knew that the generative source of ALL wealth was not located in any material substance, per se, but rather in the creative potentials of the human mind and its demonstrated ability to alter nature through scientific and technological advancement. More citizens on the West Coast represented the increased ability to thwart foreign designs, as well as, the increased potential to generate new wealth and commerce (domestic and international) for the nation. The discovery of gold by John Marshall at John Sutter's mill in Coloma, during January 1848, which sparked what became the California "Gold Rush," with much support of the American republican leadership, proved this principle. What created California's wealth, which today ranks it as the world's seventh largest economy, was not the mining and production of gold, though California did lead the world in gold production for some years after the Rush, but rather its development of infrastructure, advanced agriculture, and later the aerospace related industries.

When John Marshall brought his discovery to Colonel Richard B. Mason, the Military Governor, in Monterey, it was Lt. William T. Sherman, later of Civil War fame and then Mason's Chief of Staff, who examined the mineral specimens and determined them to be gold. Sherman assisted Mason in drafting the famous report issued to President Polk that would initiate the Gold Rush. The magnitude and speed of California's emigration in this period, stoked by the "get rich quick" stories of gold-fever carried in the Eastern U.S. press which precipitated the rush in early 1849, is legendary. During the first week of February 1849, fifty ships sailed from American ports bound for San Francisco, and within six weeks 17,000 people had book passage to the Golden State from the Atlantic and Gulf cities. Before the end of the year, 230 American vessels had reached the harbors of California. Additionally, more than 35,000 people traveled the rugged overland routes to California in 1849. The population growth was impressive. In 1846, the estimated population of California was about 9,000 (with 900 being "foreigners"), and by 1852 the state census recorded 264,435 residents.

It was also the Gold Rush migration that brought together a group of Eastern Democrats, many of whom were of Irish heritage, who became friends during those days. Later, they would become the organized, political leadership that worked with the Lincoln Republicans to keep California in the Union and free of foreign domination. As we shall see later in this report, it was known by people such as John Downey that the ultimate purpose of unleashing a civil war in the United States was to reestablish the rule of the European oligarchy throughout the Americas.

The future leaders of California headed West to seek their own fortunes. John Downey, born In 1827 in Castlesampson, County Roscommon, Ireland and arriving in America in 1841, escaped the British-orchestrated genocide against Ireland, often referred to as the "Great Potato Famine," which murdered over 1.5 million Irish. After employment as a pharmacist in Washington, D.C., Cincinnati, Ohio and then in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Downey landed in San Francisco in 1849 with "ten dollars and a gold watch."

After a brief experience of the miserable conditions of panning for gold in the wilderness of the Californian mountains, Downey decided that his future laid rather in serving the host of gold-fever emigrants. However, during his brief gold mining venture, as he was working the river, Downey bumped pans with David C. Broderick, who would latter play a key role in the events that led him to occupy the Governor's Mansion.

Downey soon moved back to San Francisco to work in a wholesale drug firm. In 1850, when California was admitted into the Union, John Downey headed for the small, Southern California pueblo of Los Angeles.

### **Broderick vs. Gwin**

Throughout the decade of the 1850s, from California's admission into the Union until the eve of the Civil War, the two leading figures which emerged to thwart the designs of the British/Confederate conspiracy to sever the Pacific Coast from any permanent alliance to the Union were Edward D. Baker and David Broderick. The primary opposition to them, and Broderick in particular, was led by the Mississippi slave-holder turned leader of the pro-Southern faction of California's Democratic Party, William McKendree Gwin.

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Gwin arrived in San Francisco in June of 1849, along with the rising tide of gold-fever immigrants. But Gwin's objectives were not pursuit of the 'mother lode' but to become the first Senator sent to Washington from California. Gwin was no newcomer to politics, and arrived as the Southern aristocracy's ambassador and point man on the West Coast. He grew up in Tennessee as a neighbor of Andrew Jackson and would become his protégé. Having earned himself degrees in law and medicine, in 1831, when Jackson became President, Gwin moved into the White House to become the President's personal secretary. Under the patronage of Jackson, Gwin moved to Mississippi to gain his fortune and political position, as the newly appointed U.S. Marshal of the southern portion of that state. This included the acquisition of a plantation and slaves, which he never relinquished, and a Congressional seat in the Mississippi delegation. Gwin would eventually lose that seat to a young, fire-eating Democrat named Jefferson Davis.

While Gwin was sipping mint juleps on his Mississippi verandah, immersed in reading the feudal romances of his favorite writer, Sir Walter Scott, David Colbreth Broderick was honing his craft of street-wise politics in New York City and studying his favorite poet Percy Shelley.

Broderick had been born in Washington, D.C. in 1820, where his family had moved from Ireland. His father, a skilled stone cutter, had been contracted in Ireland by an agent of the American government to do the decorative work in the interior of the national Capitol Building in Washington. When the work was finished, the Broderick family moved to New York City. There, Broderick took up his father's trade of stone cutting.

A friend of his mother, Townsend Harris, took young David under his wing. Harris was active in New York's Democratic Party, the president of the New York board of education (1846-48), and founder of City College. Harris took Broderick away from his manual labor by setting him up to manage a local saloon. There, under Harris' direction, Broderick had the time to learn to love books, especially the poet and supporter of the American Republic, Percy Shelley. In 1855, Harris was appointed by President Pierce to become the consul general to Japan, the first U.S. diplomat to that nation, after it was opened up by Commodore Matthew Perry. As minister, Harris organized the signing of the first trade treaty between the U.S. and Japan in 1859, which included protective tariff measures for Japan.

With Harris' influence and the education of running a political saloon, Broderick was soon elected to represent a Ward at Tammany Hall. After an unsuccessful run for the US Congress in 1846, due to the sabotage of the corrupt elements of his own Democratic Party, he headed to California, during the Gold Rush. He vowed to his friends that he would return as a Senator from a new California State.

William Gwin's transport to San Francisco in June of 1849, was part of a broader strategy of the American, treason faction to capture California for the "Southern cause," from the moment of its expectant statehood. This faction of the California Democratic Party appropriately became known as the "Chivalry" (or "Chiv"), a mythical set of attributes gleaned from the novels of the anti-American Sir Walter Scott. Gwin's "political stature," and notably his friends in Washington, immediately made him a delegate to the California Constitutional Convention.

The convention began meeting in September 1849 at Colton Hall in Monterey, and by November the forty-eight delegates put their signatures to the new Constitution of the State of California. Much to the dismay of today's 'English only' advocates, the constitution was not only written in both English and Spanish, but it required that all major legislation had be written in both languages (this was ended when a new constitution was adopted in 1879). The convention was a success, though to the anguish of the Chivalry, who subsequently and repeatedly acted to circumvent and abolish the law, the following amendment was introduced by the 27 year-old delegate born in Ireland, William E. Shannon, and adopted: "Slavery is prohibited. Involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime."

Two months later, a newly elected State Legislature met in the temporary capital of San Jose to vote for the two people who would represent California in the U.S. Senate. The populist leader of the Bear Flag Revolt, John C. Fremont, was overwhelmingly elected on the first ballot, but was given the two-year term, while William Gwin was selected for on the third ballot for the longer, six-year term as Senator. Though nominally an abolitionist, which to the credulous would appear to balance Gwin's Chivalry, Fremont's politics were as shallow as his intellect, and his desire to serve mankind stopped at the tip of his nose.

### **The Committee of Vigilance**

When California was accepted into the Union in 1850, Gwin and his Sancho Panza sidekick, Fremont, marched off to Washington to represent the state. But, there was much alarm among "Southern strategists" over the growing

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influence of Broderick and his unending attacks on what he termed the “rose water Democrats” of the Chivalry. After all, Broderick had been elected, in April of 1851, as president pro tem of the California State Senate, and his “republican rabble,” especially in the major urban center of the state, San Francisco, were steadily increasing their political clout. Hence, in that city on June 9, 1851, the first Jacobin uprising in the state was initiated with the formation of the Committee of Vigilance. Publicly, the Committee claimed that they, “the citizens,” had to take the law into their own hands to protect themselves against “criminal foreigners” (the primary scapegoats at the time being Chileans and Australians) and corrupt government officials, through mob lynching and anything else they deemed necessary.

Popular and often inaccurate California historians, such as Hubert H. Bancroft and the more contemporary revisionists, have attempted to describe the recurring establishment of the Committee of Vigilance as some kind of natural, sociological phenomena and generally portray it as an unfortunate necessity of the period. This is all bunk. Such representations are, at best, grossly incompetent, and reminiscent of Woodrow Wilson’s “historical” scribbles which heaped fawning praise on the establishment of the first Ku Klux Klan, while actively cheer-leading its reincarnation in 1915 from the Oval Office. The California Jacobins of the 1850s, like today’s modern terrorist movements, are not the product of some elusive “sociological phenomena.”

Just as Lord Shelburne had directed British control over the Jacobins in 1789 to murder the French, republican collaborators of Benjamin Franklin, least there be a repeat of the American Revolution in Europe, Gwin’s Chivalry used the Committee of Vigilance to destroy Broderick and his allies, and to ultimately attempt an armed secessionist coup.

Broderick wasted no time, or words, in responding to this threat. A “Law and Order” opposition organization was established and Broderick issued a mass handbill, which stated, “Shall we tolerate in this enlightened age a Danton, a Robespierre or a Fource, and the paraphernalia of a secret inquisition for the suppression of our laws and courts?” The Committee had a fit when Broderick named the names, and identified the specific illegal actions, of the secret order’s leadership.

Just as the British were using the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Eastern U.S. to subvert the republic and create what became the Confederacy, in San Francisco the fact that the leadership of the Committee of Vigilance overlapped with local Freemasons and the Chivalry was not exactly top secret. The manuscript reminiscences of one member, G.W. Ryckman, state that the first organization was called the ‘San Francisco Regulators’ and then the Committee of Vigilance of 1851, and that it was “a good deal like a Free Mason’s Lodge.”

The nominal leader of this Committee was Sam Brannan, a unscrupulous profiteer and self-appointed leader (and collector of tithes) of the California Mormons. He had arrived from New York with his Mormon flock of two hundred, in 1846, as part of a larger Mormon colonization operation. The plan, coordinated by the top Mormon Elders, and discussed with some leaders in Washington under the guise of securing “patriotic” control of California, envisioned moving to California some ten to twelve thousand Mormon’s then in Nauvoo, Illinois, and an additional forty thousand from the British Isles.

The Committee took charge of the city. Their armed goons patrolled the streets and harbor, turned away undesirable immigrants, and arrested whom they chose. Their spies and informants created fear among the population, least anyone would speak ill of the Committee and suffer the consequences of the “people’s court.” Its symbol was the all-seeing Masonic eye, which, like George Orwell’s Big Brother, appeared on posters throughout the city. The Committee issued a proclamation as to how far they would go in their armed insurrection to serve their master’s mission of preventing any republican influence in California:

Should the order-loving portion of the citizens of Sacramento City, Stockton, Pueblo de San Jose, Monterey, Marysville, and all other towns and cities of the State find it necessary, they are invited to form themselves into Committees of Vigilance, for purposes set forth in the Constitution of the Committee of Vigilance of San Francisco.

The Object of Formation of these committees is moreover for the purpose of corresponding with each other, so as to be able to mark and notice the movements of all disorderly and suspicious characters. By vigilance we may succeed in driving from our midst those who have become so baneful and obnoxious to our committees.

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During the insurrection, where was California's most prominent lawgiver, the Honorable Senator William Gwin, whose voice could have quelled, if not completely stopped, the mob rule of the Committee? He uttered not one word against the Committee, and he could not be found during the entire affair.

Ultimately, it was the personal courage of David Broderick and his Irish "b'hoys" who publicly showed down Brannan and a Committee-led mob of 10,000 which been had mobilized for a lynching. Protected by a small band of perhaps as many as fifty of his "b'hoys" against the fury of the mob, Broderick repeatedly, and at length, denounced the crowd for their degenerate barbarism and immoral bloodlust. The moral and physical courage of Broderick and his small band, who, against great numbers, literally beat back the mob, succeed in breaking the Committee's tyrannical control of the city. However, this would not be the last of the Committee of Vigilance.

### **Stemming the Westward Tide of Slavery**

During 1852, Gwin and his Chivalry escalated their efforts to capture California as a slave state. Early in the year, the California State Legislature received a petition signed by 1,218 citizens of South Carolina and Florida requesting permission to emigrate to California along with thousands of their slaves. Unfortunately, the governor, John Bigler, a copperhead Democrat from Pennsylvania, openly endorsed the petition and stated that anyone opposed to the spread of slavery was "governed by a spirit of disaffection towards the Union." [2] Now, all those Southerners and copperheads who had reluctantly voted to accept the anti-slavery constitution of the state were beginning to show their true colors. The leaders of the Chivalry began to continually call for a new constitutional convention, to remove that troublesome amendment, while they passed a bill in the legislature to give anyone who had brought slaves into the state before the constitutional convention one year to remove them. This deadline was extended ad nauseum.

Another scheme of the Chivalry was an attempt to divide California into two states. Once a slave state of Southern California could be established on the Pacific Coast, they foresaw dragging the Arizona and New Mexico territories into the Southern, pro-slavery camp. For such an idea, Gwin stated, "The country is ripe for it. The initiatory steps will be taken by the legislature as fast as they can be. The people will be ready." This strategy is also congruent with Gwin's pet project in the U.S. Senate to construct a transcontinental railroad. Gwin's plan, however, differed from the Careyite nationalists and called for a southern route which would incorporate exactly those territories lusted after by his pro-slavery faction.

It was Broderick who sabotaged this treasonous plan when the Chivalry organized the legislature to hold a new constitutional convention in the summer of 1852. Knowing that the general public wouldn't support the most egregious of the Chivalry's proposals, Broderick, with much fanfare about "democracy," convinced the legislature to adopt a measure that called for any change in the state constitution to be submitted as a general plebiscite. Thus, Gwin's first attempt to create two California states was foiled.

However, a fugitive slave bill was passed by the State Legislature, along with numerous other pro-slavery measures, all of which violated the State Constitution. One those was the "Coolie bill" which allowed Asians, free blacks, and others to be brought into the state as virtual slaves under the guise of "labor contracts." All of this began to reveal the true intentions of Gwin and his Chivalry to transplant the Southern aristocracy into California. This is witnessed in the following article which appeared at the time in the *Alta California* newspaper of San Francisco:

Arrogating to themselves a superiority of mental endowment which gives them a sacred license to lord it over their less fortunate fellow beings, they deliberately proceed to the enactment of laws whose direct tendency is to degrade instead of elevating a portion of mankind. Assuming it as an inevitable law of nature that some men were born to be masters and others to be slaves, they belie every noble impulse of the age by seeking to sink the low still lower and the high higher.

It was during that spring of 1852 that Edward Dickinson Baker first arrived in San Francisco with his family. Baker had been a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, since the 1830s when they had both practiced law in Springfield, Illinois. An ardent member of the Whig Party, Baker was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1837 and then to the U.S. Congress in 1844, having beaten Lincoln in the Whig primary. After serving as a colonel in the Mexican-America War, Baker was re-elected to Congress in 1848. In 1851, he became involved in supervising the construction of the Panama Railroad, a project which significantly increased the efficiency, and shortened the travel time, of moving people and freight between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States. Upon arriving in San Francisco, Baker set up a legal practice with a young lawyer from Philadelphia, Isaac Jones Wistar. He became a close friend of David Broderick and in 1855 stood as a Whig Party candidate for the U.S. Senate.

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### Confederate Know-Nothings

In 1853, Broderick had managed to become chairman of the California State Democratic Party. Among other things, this allowed him to change the party rules for the state convention and temporarily break Gwin's control of the party. However, the following year saw the emergence of a new subversive political movement in California, the Know-Nothings, which was yet another Trojan horse of the Chivalry. Having surfaced earlier on the East Coast, the Know-Nothings were a secret political society (the term originating from the response of any member to inquires about the society: "I know nothing."), also known as the Party of the Dark Lantern. They considered themselves "Nativists" i.e. anti-foreigner, anti-Roman Catholic, and called for the halt of immigration into the country.

By 1855, the California Know-Nothings had constituted the American Party, whose leadership came from the ranks of the Chivalry. One prominent member of the Chivalry, David Terry, the Texas lawyer (though born in Kentucky), joined the American Party. He later wrote about his motivation: "I desired to change the constitution of the state by striking out the clause prohibiting slavery and for several years entertained strong hopes of effecting this object or, failing in that, to divide the state and thus open a portion of California to Southerners and their property."

When the American Party held its state convention, joining Terry on the platform was Henry Foote, the former governor and senator from Mississippi. Foote had moved to California after President Pierce had passed him over for appointment as Secretary of War, in favor on Jeff Davis. The American Party swept the California state elections in 1855, and would have been unable to do so without the Chivalry withdrawing its support from its Democratic Party candidates, then largely controlled or influenced by Broderick. One result of the election was that David Terry was appointed to the State Supreme Court.

Ironically, in Los Angeles, John Downey's outspoken opposition to the Know-Nothings got him nominated and then elected to the State Assembly.

### The Reign of Terror Replayed

The nominal incident which touched off the reconstitution of the Vigilance Committee occurred on November 17, 1856 when professional gambler, Charles Cora, shot and killed the U.S. Marshall for the Northern District of California, William Richardson. Though Richardson had been drunk and was shot by Cora in self-defense, his death would have political repercussions, since he had obtained his position through Gwin's patronage who had had President Pierce appoint him marshal. Cora was placed in the county jail, while Sam Brannan began to whip up the populace in his typical dogmatic fashion. Edward Baker became Cora's lawyer. However, it was not until May that things came to a head.

During those intervening months, the citizens of San Francisco were assailed by a newspaper war. James King of William, who lost everything in San Francisco's 1854 economic collapse, had been provided with the means to start publishing a four page paper, the *Daily Evening Bulletin*, five weeks before Richardson had been killed. King became the *vox populi* for the new Committee of Vigilance and their backers, demanding an end to alleged government corruption. His demagogic writings, which increasingly inflamed the population into taking the law into their own hands, were met by James P. Casey, who published *The Sunday Times*. The editorial attacks became extremely personal on both sides, while physical threats from the Committee against Casey increased. The stage was set for a coup d'etat.

Without belaboring the details of the event, which are insignificant to the broader developments which subsequently occurred, on May 14<sup>th</sup> Casey and King confronted each other on the streets of San Francisco, resulting in King being shot and dying six days later. The Masons conducted King's funeral, held at the Unitarian Church on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Within 36 hours of the shooting, the Vigilance Committee recorded that 2,600 people had enrolled in their organization, which would climb to over 7,000 at its peak. All members were assigned a number, by which they were recognized and communicated. The Committee established a headquarters at in a liquor warehouse on Sacramento Street, nicknamed "Fort Gunnybags" because of the six-foot high rows of sand bags that surrounded the two-story brick building. The "fort" served as the Committee's headquarters, prison, court house, and armory. Small field cannons and firearms, taken from the state-run National Guard armory, were stockpiled there. The Committee quickly became a highly organized paramilitary organization, which included battalions of artillery, cavalry, and infantry.

The person who led the 1856 Vigilance Committee's reign of terror was William Tell Coleman, a Southern Democrat from Kentucky. It is an irony that such a despot would have the name of Friedrich Schiller's heroic Swiss archer. He

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would have been better suited with his father's name, Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman, because within two weeks Coleman and his Committee took absolute control of San Francisco.

Governor Neely Johnson (elected on the American Party ticket) declared the city to be in a state of insurrection, and issued orders to have the state militia enrolled and mobilized. Johnson appointed the future Civil War general, William T. Sherman, to the position of Major General of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the California Militia. Sherman, who was then a Mexican War veteran, had established a banking business in San Francisco. Johnson met with Sherman in San Francisco, where Sherman informed him that he had already selected a hill from which Fort Gunnybags could be blown to bits by cannon fire. The Governor, however, wanted to first meet with Coleman. After all, the members of the Vigilance Committee were the constituents that had elected him. Pushed as to the ultimate goals of the Vigilance Committee, Coleman assured his guests that they only wanted, "to purify the moral and political atmosphere, and then disband." Johnson made a compromise that Committee members could enter the jail to join Broderick's men who were there to stand guard. Coleman betrayed his agreement, and the jail was soon surrounded by 3,000-armed Committee members who removed James Casey and Charles Cora from the jail.

Sherman knew that what he faced was a reenactment of the Jacobin terror that had swept France in 1789, and at the time wrote in a letter that "all the elements of the Paris Committee of Safety are here and once put in motion, they cannot be stopped." [3] He began to plan for military action. In order to succeed he needed arms and ammunition to be released to his militia from the Union arsenal under the command of General Wool. He also requested naval support from Commodore Farragut at Mare Island. Probably more out of pusillanimity than treasonous inclination, though the results would be the same, Wool stated that he would not cooperate unless the Committee committed an act of direct defiance of the California government. The Governor quickly had Supreme Court Justice David Terry, a trusted Know-Nothing, deliver a writ of habeas corpus for one of the other prisoners that the Committee was holding. Terry delivered the writ and, as expected, it was refused.

The Governor held a meeting of councilors, which included Sherman, Terry and Edward Baker to reach agreement on a course of action. Regrettably, General Wool went back on his word and refused to release the armaments to Sherman. Sherman wrote his letter of resignation on the spot, handed it to the Governor, and left the meeting. Sherman later wrote about what had happened next: "At the same time, all the armories of the State Volunteers were surrounded, cannon placed in front, and all surrendered, giving up their arms and accouterments, a regular *coup d'état, à la Louis Napoléan.*" (emphasis in the original). [4]

The Vigilance Committee was now unrestrained by state or federal intervention. After a hasty "trial" by the "people's court" of the Committee, Casey and Cora were hanged. Now, the Committee could undertake its mission to physically eliminate the Broderick political machine. David Broderick's allies who did not escape the city were either killed, "suicided", or placed on ships for forced exile. Broderick himself was not arrested and forced the issue of the Committee's true purpose by publicly confronting the Committee directly, and then leaving San Francisco.

### **A Republic of the Pacific**

The British strategy for destroying the United States was not simply found in the organized creation and promotion of the secessionist movement which became the Confederate States of America (CSA). It was also located in any effort which would "balkanize" or split-up the Union and its territories. Failing to bring California into the camp of the Southern "free traders" and slavers, the fall back strategy envisioned the breaking off of California from the Union and combining it with the Oregon Territory to create a Pacific Republic. Such a so-called "republic" would be allied with the South and its European supporters. If this had been allowed to occur, in one fashion or another, the western flank of the Union would not begin at the Pacific Ocean but rather at the Rocky Mountains. And this would only be in the North, since the territories of Arizona and New Mexico would become indefensible and easy pickings for the Confederacy.

The man who took over Sherman's role as head of the state militia, Volney Howard, correctly identified those aims of the Committee and their backers. He stated that, "the insurgents aim at nothing less than an entire overthrow of the State government and secession from the Federal Union . . . there is no safety for their leaders but in revolution and a separate government on the Pacific." [5]

Governor Neely Johnson pleaded with President Pierce for assistance, stating that the Vigilance Committee had, "assumed the character of a permanent organization, which designed not only to usurp the control of the legal authority in San Francisco; but . . . aimed also to extend its power to the subversion of State authority; and if Federal

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intervention should ensue, the establishment of a government entirely independent of the Union.” Pierce showed his real intentions when he refused Governor Johnson’s request.

Later Broderick’s nemesis, Senator Gwin, as described later in this report, would join the Confederacy at the beginning of the Civil War and work to establish such a Pacific Republic from foreign soil. However, this would not be a shocker, since he had already been on the record promoting such a stratagem. On December 13, 1859, Gwin stated from the floor of the U.S. Senate that, “I believe that the slave-holding states of this confederacy can establish a separate and independent government that will be impregnable to the assault of all foreign enemies.” And also stated later that if there were to be a secession, then “California would be found with the south.” When he was criticized for such an admission, shortly afterwards by the other senator from California, Gwin denied it, but replied, “I hope, Mr. President, that this union will be imperishable, but if it is ever broken up, the eastern boundary of the Pacific republic will be, in my opinion, the Sierra Madre and the Rocky mountains.” [6]

Formally, the 1856 Committee of Vigilance transformed itself into the People’s Party and its leaders continued to exercise substantial control over San Francisco for another decade.

### **Broderick Elected & Murdered**

David Broderick may have lost the battle of San Francisco, but he was far from losing the war. The Chivalry had lost political ground with its shenanigans around the Know-Nothing Party escapade. Meanwhile, Broderick wheeled and dealed his influence within the state Democratic Party into being elected U.S. Senator by the State Legislature in January 1857. Not only had he outflanked Gwin, but he had also extracted a written statement from Gwin that confessed his misuse of federal patronage and, most humiliatingly of all, that his re-election to the Senate was due to “Broderick and his friends.” Broderick celebrated his victory by having a quiet dinner with his friend William T. Sherman.

Broderick had feverishly campaigned for the election of James Buchanan, the Democratic Presidential candidate who had run against California’s nominal Republican, John Fremont. Broderick had campaigned on the issue of “free labor” versus slave labor. When he arrived in Washington, Broderick thought that he was leading the California delegation, with Gwin in tow. However, he soon learned the treasonous treachery of Buchanan first hand. The President gave him the cold shoulder, and proceeded to appoint Gwin’s men to all the federal positions in California. This not only infuriated Broderick but also undercut this ability to fulfill patronage promises to his constituents.

Shortly after Buchanan was elected, the Supreme Court handed down its infamous Dred Scott decision, making the Kansas Territory the bloody battlefield of the slavery issue. Buchanan, like U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tanney, believed that slavery was positively grounded in the U.S. Constitution. Buchanan appointed Robert J. Walker, the man whose successful 1835 U.S. Senate campaign in Mississippi had been managed by William Gwin, to become territorial governor.

With the idea of making Kansas a slave state, Walker convened a state constitutional convention in the town of Lecompton. Anti-slavery forces boycotted Lecompton and held their own convention. The Lecompton Democrats, as the pro-slavery wing of the party became known, adopted a constitution to make Kansas a slave state. Kansas now had two constitutions, as the anti-Lecompton convention held in Topeka voted for Kansas to be a “free soil” state. This created a firestorm within the party, as Buchanan attempted to force Congress to admit Kansas as a slave state without a public plebiscite, which was demanded by Steven Douglas. Broderick joined Douglas on the floor of the Senate to denounce Buchanan on the day before Christmas break:

“I do not intend, because I am a member of the Democratic party, to permit the President of the United States, who has been elected by that party, to create civil war in Kansas. The only thing that has astonished me in this whole matter is the forbearance of the people of Kansas. If they had taken the delegates to the Lecompton convention and flogged them, or cut their ears off and driven them out of the country, I would have applauded the act.”

After his indictment of the President for his illegal actions, the Senate sat in stunned silence.

Broderick returned to California in June of 1859 to prepare for the 1860 elections, and began building a political alliance between the Anti-Lecompton Democrats and Republicans, such as Edward Baker. The Chivalry decided that



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Broderick had to be eliminated once and for all. Events were put into motion whose calculated outcome would have an eerie resemblance to Aaron Burr's murder of Alexander Hamilton.

After a tumultuous first day of the 1859 Democratic Party convention in Sacramento, which had come within a hair's breath of turning into a full-blown riot, the Lecompton Democrats held their own separate convention, selecting their own slate of candidates.

John Downey attended as a representative of the Los Angeles delegation which, as a block, was on the Lecompton side. His old friend Broderick was not pleased to see him on the other side of the aisle.

The Lecompton Democrats chose Milton S. Latham as their candidate for Governor and John G. Downey became his running mate for the Lt. Governor's post. Downey was chosen, in part, to garner the Irish vote, since the Irish had become the largest ethnic voting block in the state, and the Anti-Lecompton Democrats had chosen their own Ireland-born candidate for Lt. Governor, John Conness.

At the Lecompton convention, David Terry attacked the Anti-Lecompton Democrats as "a miserable remnant of a faction flying false colors" who were "the personal chattel of a single individual" who "belong, heart and soul, body and breeches, to David Broderick." Terry then added the kicker, "perhaps they do sail under the flag of Douglas, but it is the banner of the black Douglas whose name is Frederick not Stephen." Terry's speech was designed as the opening gambit to draw Broderick into a challenge to a duel. Broderick was furious, not at the Frederick Douglass remark, but the fact that Terry would so publicly abuse him after he had saved Terry's hide from the Vigilance Committee during 1856. The day following Terry's speech, D.W. Perly, a lawyer friend of Terry, was deployed as a spy to the large table where Broderick was having breakfast. Perly drew out Broderick's response to the Terry remarks and reported back to Terry. The trap was set.

Knowing that Broderick would not submit to the kind of arrogant demand that Terry required - a humiliating public apology - Terry resigned as Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court in order to challenge Broderick to a duel. Perly, now Terry's official representative, issued the formal challenge to Broderick, to which Broderick jokingly dismissed him. Terry continued to publicly defame Broderick and force the challenge. After two months, Broderick reluctantly accepted the challenge and the duel was set for 5:30 on the morning of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Broderick was widely known as a dead shot and was perceived to be the favorite. The evening prior to the confrontation, Broderick spent with his close friend Edward Baker.

That following morning, as the crowd grew to observe the duel, Terry's seconds secured the choice of weapons. They were a pair of oddly-formed, ornate French pistols, with which Terry had been practicing for several months before he had issued the challenge to Broderick. The gunsmith who had loaded the pistols later testified that the weapon assigned to Broderick had a hair trigger, which had been filed down prior to the duel. He also claimed to have warned Broderick's seconds about the condition of the pistol, but the seconds denied having been informed.

As the two men faced off, the count was given to begin the duel, but before the command signal to fire was given Broderick's pistol prematurely misfired, with the ball striking the ground only nine feet in front of him. As the count was reached to fire, Terry calmly shot Broderick in the chest, mortally wounding the Senator. Someone in the crowd yelled, "This is murder." Broderick lingered for three days until his death. His last words were: "They have killed me because I was opposed to a corrupt administration and the extension of slavery." John Conness, one Broderick's closest allies who had been with him when he died, would later follow Broderick to the U.S. Senate in 1863 and become one of President Lincoln's closest confidants.[7]

Cornelius Cole, a prominent California Democrat wrote to inform Senator William H. Seward (R-NY), later to be Lincoln's Secretary of State, to communicate the death of Broderick. In telling Seward of Broderick's last words, Cole added, "His death was decreed by his enemies months ago and was not unexpected. Our sky is now gloomy, but some rays of hope penetrate the dark clouds. Mr. Broderick could hardly be spared in the Senate; California is in need of such men there."

One ray of hope was Edward Baker who gave the eulogy for his fallen friend David Broderick, at his public funeral before thirty thousand citizens gathered in San Francisco's Portsmouth Square. The Gray Eagle, as Baker came to be known, gave such a powerful speech and had such an impact that it was printed as a pamphlet and widely distributed. Of Broderick, he said:

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"Fellow citizens, the man whose body lies before you was your Senator. From the moment of his election his character has been maligned, his motives attacked, his courage impeached, his patriotism assailed. It has been a system tending to one end – and the end is here. What was his crime? Review his history - consider his public acts – weigh his private character – and before the grave encloses him forever, judge between him and his enemies. . . .

"Fellow citizens, let no man suppose that the death of the eminent citizen of whom I speak was caused by any other reason than that to which his own words assign it. It has been long foreshadowed – it was predicted by his friends – it was threatened by his enemies; it was the consequence of intense political hatred. His death was a political necessity poorly veiled beneath the guise of a private quarrel. . . . I am here to say, that whatever in the code of honor or out of it demands or allows a deadly combat where there is not in all things entire and certain equality, is a prostitution of the name, is an evasion of the substance, and is a shield, emblazoned with the name of chivalry, to cover the malignity of murder."[8]

With that said, there was no question in anyone's mind as to who the perpetrators of the crime were. The blame for Broderick's murder hung upon William Gwin like Samuel Coleridge's proverbial albatross around the neck of the Ancient Mariner. When Gwin and a new Chivalry congressman soon left San Francisco for Washington aboard a steamer, a large sign was displayed from the dock which correctly captured the sentiment of the population: "The will of the People – may the murderers of David C. Broderick never return to California." For Gwin and most of his Southern clan, this would soon be the case.

As for Terry, he was arrested after the murder. However, the corrupt Chivalry elements of the judiciary ensured that Terry was immediately released on bail and would never be tried and convicted. After ten months of delay and a change of venue to another county, Terry's day in court lasted only a few hours. After the witnesses for the prosecution were delayed in arriving on time, due to the actions of the district attorney, the presiding judge released Terry. The judge was later impeached and removed from the bench for disloyalty.

Not long after Broderick's funeral, Edward Baker accepted a offer that had been made to him earlier by a delegation of Republican leaders from the new state of Oregon who had invited him to relocate to their state and run for the U.S. Senator. Baker moved to Oregon, where he was elected in 1860 as the first, and only, Republican Senator from the West Coast.

For those patriotic citizens who had heard, or read, Baker's eulogy to Broderick, his final words were a personal challenge that would echo in their minds: "Who now shall speak for California? – who be the interpreter of the wants of the Pacific Coast? Who can appeal to the communities of the Atlantic who love free labor? Who can speak for masses of men with a passionate love for the classes from whence he sprang? Who can defy the blandishments of power, the insolence of office, the corruption of administrations?"

### **The Worm Turns**

The storm clouds of Civil War began to gather around the heated national election of 1860. The California Democratic Party convention of 1859 had experienced the same turmoil that had occurred in Kansas. Broderick, who had chaired that convention, had found himself with two conventions occurring simultaneously, as the Southern partisans, the Lecompton Democrats, revolted, held their own convention, and selected the Latham/Downey ticket.

With the removal of Broderick, even with the political backlash it had caused and with all the major electoral positions in their pocket, including all federal representatives, the Chivalry seemed to be getting their way. If Civil War did breakout, following the election of Abraham Lincoln, California, they thought, would certainly go with the South, though there might be some kicking and screaming. After all, Lecompton Democrats controlled the state government. Some 18,000 members of the Knights of the Golden Circle (mostly in Southern California) could be counted on, if things got dicey.[9] And, there was always the well trained and armed brothers of the Vigilance Committee, whose services could be employed one last time.

Unfortunately, for the Chivalry, John Gately Downey would prove not to be an ally of their treasonous, Confederate aspirations, but rather he would become their bane.

In 1860, there were no state positions up for election in California. Lecompton Democrats now controlled the state government. Five days after the inauguration of Governor Latham, at the beginning of January 1860, a joint

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convention of the state legislature voted to elect him to the U.S. Senate, filling the seat made vacant by the murder of David Broderick. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, John Downey, at the age of thirty-two, became Governor of California. Downey, with his twenty-one year old wife, became the first Irish-born governor to be elected in America and the only foreign-born governor of California.

During the five days that Latham had been Governor, he had already displayed his treasonous inclinations by promoting a bill in the legislature to divide California into two parts, an idea that the modern day Confederate soul-mates of California still promote. Downey killed this bill by having it blocked in the senate.

One of Governor Downey's first acts was to change how the state had been dealing with the Native Indian population, which had been to heavily finance vigilante groups, called the "White Volunteers," to protect settlers in the hinterlands. However, it was the Indians who needed protection from the vigilantes, and Downey arranged to have the military assume responsibility for the safety of all sides.[10]

The Chivalry began to realize the mistake they had made with their choice for Lt. Governor when, on April 16, 1861, Downey vetoed their notorious Bulkhead Bill. The bill which would have created a private monopoly to control the waterfront of San Francisco, granting the San Francisco Dock Company the right to construct a sea wall (otherwise know as a bulkhead) and wharves. It would also give the company the authority to collect, own, and franchise property and wharves belonging to the city or private concerns. The bulkheaders had played a major role in promoting Latham into the U.S. Senate, and had sent Levi Parsons, their lobbyist, to meet Downey. Downey told Levi his position, in no uncertain terms: "My conscience is not for sale. This bill, and you know it, would only serve to bulge the pockets of bulkheaders at the expense of the people of San Francisco. Go back to the gangsters now, and tell them that this governor cannot be bought." In honor of the Governor's veto, the people of San Francisco organized a huge, all-night celebration for Downey. Church bells rang, people sang in the streets, and a torch light procession led him and his wife Maria through the town with much jubilation.

### **Downey Keeps California in the Union**

On March 2, 1860, Downey signed a bill that purchased the land in the city of Sacramento to establish that city as the permanent state capital, and laid the cornerstone of the capitol building two months later. Disgusted by the pork barrel policies of his predecessors, which had put the state into a debt of over \$400,000,000 the new governor set about the business of establishing the basis for actual economic development and protecting the general welfare of the population. He was outraged that the state had no university, no state library, no sound buildings to house orphans, prisoners, or the insane. He took measures to correct these problems, but the historical battle of California's role in the survival of the nation would be his priority in the two-years of his term.

When the Chivalry organized the California Democratic Party to support Vice President John Breckenridge in the 1860 national election for President, with their slogan of "peaceful secession," Downey again broke with the leaders of his state's party and supported Stephen Douglas. In 1860, forty percent of the 380,000 Californians were from Southern slave states, and only seven of the state's fifty-three newspapers supported Lincoln. The split in the Democratic vote allowed Lincoln to carry California, with his four electors winning with a margin of only an average of 735 votes each.

The intentions of Gwin and the Chivalry, of course, were anything but "peaceful." Prior to the election, traitors in the Buchanan administration and in California had already put events into motion to break the state from the Union.

Senator Latham had promised to take "California out of the Union if Lincoln were to be elected," though he had been the one, described above, to criticize Gwin's pro-secession speech given to the Senate. This was not because Gwin was pro-secession, but because Latham publicly favored the Pacific Republic option "if there were to be a secession of the Southern states." No matter the color of the horse, what comes out of its backside is the same thing.

On December 20, 1860, Mississippi, the state where William Gwin's plantation and human "property" were located, voted to follow South Carolina and seceded from the Union. On that same day, President Buchanan's Secretary of War, John Floyd, ordered 113 heavy columbiad cannons and 11 32-pounder cannons to be shipped from the Allegheny arsenal at Pittsburgh to the unfinished and undefended U.S. forts at Ship Island, Mississippi and Galveston, Texas, where they could be seized by the secessionists.[11] This pattern of treasonous actions by the Administration, to arm an insurrection against the government of the United States, occurred in a number of states, including California.

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The previous month, on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Buchanan administration had combined the Army's Departments of California and Oregon into a single Department of the Pacific. This new Department extended from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains and from Mexico to Canada, covering a 500,000 square-mile area. Army forts and installations were manned by 3,600 regular troops. At the recommendation of Senator Gwin, the person put in command of the new Department was a Texan (born in Kentucky), Brigadier General Albert Sidney Johnson, who was generally suspected of being sympathetic to the secessionists. Floyd then sent 75,000 muskets to California secretly, without the approval of congress. When General Johnson took command of his post in San Francisco in January of 1861, plans for an armed takeover of the state were underway.

Governor Downey presented the State Legislature with his State of the Union address on January 7, 1861, which made clear the political direction that he would guide California:

"The startling events transpiring upon our Atlantic seaboard, would seem to indicate that the Union which binds our free and happy confederacy together, is in imminent danger of disruption. Such a state of affairs exists as makes it probable that, unless the conservative element of the Union steps forth and places itself in the breach, the dire calamity of dissolution will follow. At such a time as this, I deem it due to the position I occupy, to lay before you the critical position of our federal relations, and express to you, the people's representatives, the deep solicitude I feel in the perpetuity of that Union transmitted, to our care by the Fathers of the Revolution, for the benefit of succeeding generations – for the security of civil and religious liberty – and the honor, glory, and power, of the American name. . .

"There is no State in the American Union that has, in so short a time, added so large a quota to the material importance and commercial greatness, as California has to the confederacy of which she is a member; and none, perhaps, has received so little in return. Notwithstanding this, she stops, not to calculate the pecuniary value of her connection with Union. Such sordid motives find not a resting place in the bosom of Californians, for they are for the Union at all hazards!" [12]

At the beginning of February, Crittenden, a state assemblyman from El Dorado, publicly stated that if the federal government attempted to impose its law in California, then 30,000 men would take up arms to defend secession.[13] At about this time, a fellow named Street was the postmaster of the Northern California town of Shasta. The succeeding postmaster discovered letters that had been received there by Street from his brother Charles R. Street, the editor of the *Marysville Express*. The letters, sent from San Francisco, detailed an insurrectionist conspiracy, including the plans and names of the conspirators (later published in 1863 in the *Stockton Independent*). One letter states that the entire California congressional delegation will support the coup, and mentions that it is uncertain as to what Governor Downey would do. The letters came into the possession of Judge Goodwin of Yuba, and its contents were most likely communicated directly to President Lincoln through Supreme Court Justice Stephen Field.[14] Field in his autobiographic work, discusses his knowledge of the "efforts made in 1860 and 1861 to keep the State in the Union against the movements of the Secessionists, and the communications had with President Lincoln by relays of riders over the Plains." [15] Later, in 1863, Lincoln appointed the pro-Union Democrat, Stephen J. Field, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lincoln, aware of the plans of the insurrectionists in California, took action to secure the West Coast. The President issued orders to reassign General Johnson and replace him with General Edwin Sumner. Johnson, who heard the news via pony express prior to Sumner's arrival on April 24<sup>th</sup>, resigned his commission on April 9<sup>th</sup>. During that intervening period, Fort Sumter was attacked on April 12<sup>th</sup>, initiating the Civil War. This was the moment of truth for the California insurrectionists.

The conspirators, who represented an overlapping membership of the Knights of the Golden Circle and the Committee of Vigilance, had approached the San Francisco Sheriff, who was also a marshal in the Vigilance, Charles Doane, to be the prospective leader of the armed insurrection. They told Doane that 1,000 men would immediately assemble in the town plaza, armed and ready, once the fire bell was taped three times. Preparations were made for the uprising, but Doane, though he may have been a Southerner by birth, was no traitor. He informed Colonel Stevenson of the plot. A meeting was quickly held between Governor Downey, the San Francisco Mayor, and General Albert Johnson to formulate actions to be taken against the threatened coup. As Union forces were deployed to reinforce the arsenal and Fort Point, the hopes of the Confederate conspirators for any success evaporated.

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General Albert Johnson proved that he possessed the personal dignity expected of West Point graduates, in refusing to support the insurrection. When General Sumner arrived, not long after the coup attempt, Johnson made his way back home to Texas via the southern land route. CSA President, Jefferson Davis, commissioned Albert Johnson as the second ranking general in the Confederate Army and placed him in command of the Western Department of the Army. He later died at the Battle of Shiloh.

General Sumner took measures to militarily secure his situation. He telegraphed Oregon for the companies stationed there to immediately sail for San Francisco, and increased the number of troops deployed at Alcatraz Island, Fort Point, and the arsenal at Benicia. The first report Sumner sent back to Washington stated:

"There is a strong Union feeling with the majority of people of this state, but the secessionists are much the most active and zealous party, which gives them more influence than they ought to have from their numbers. I have no doubt there is some deep scheming to draw California into the movement – in the first place as the 'Republic of the Pacific,' expecting afterwards to induce her to join the Southern Confederacy." [16]

Regarding Southern California, General Sumner dispatched Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons, to proceed immediately from Fort Tejon (located where the top of the Grapevine Pass is on Interstate 5 today) to Los Angeles, three days after filing the following report on April 30<sup>th</sup>:

"I have found it necessary to withdraw the troops from Fort Mojave and place them at Los Angeles. There is more danger of disaffection at this place than any other in the state. There are a number of influential men there who are decided Secessionists, and, if we have difficulty it will commence there." [17]

It was Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, the lone U.S. Army officer in Los Angeles, who thwarted any insurrectionist attempts by recruiting a handful of loyal citizens to conceal and protect federal arms and ammunition until reinforcements arrived from Fort Tejon. Confederate sympathy was so strong in Southern California, that only two men in the entire region initially volunteered to join the Union Army.

Downey has been wrongly accused by some of being either a traitor or pro-secessionist, because of his views that he had opposed using offensive force against the Southern states, believing that the matter could somehow be settled legally within the Constitution. However, when the Confederacy began its military engagements, Governor Downey's response to President Lincoln and his Administration's efforts to protect and preserve the Union were always positive and immediate. Downey sent the following letter, regarding the necessity of California supplying volunteers to the Union Army:

Dear Mr. President:

The first requisition made upon this State for six thousand and five hundred volunteers has been filled and the command given to Colonel Carleton. It was indicated by the War Department that it was your desire that this office should have the command. I cheerfully complied as I have every confidence in his experience, patriotism and gallantry.

Yours sincerely,

John G. Downey

### **Governor of California**

The First California Light Infantry and Cavalry which were mustered in San Francisco's Presidio, for training at Camps Downey and Merchant, had their deployment changed. Instead of protecting the overland mail route, they were assigned to Southern California to put down any possible enemy activity. This unit became the core of the famous California column that later advanced into Arizona and New Mexico to repel the Confederate column commanded by General Henry H. Silby. Downey chose another regiment, the Third California Infantry, commanded by another native son of Ireland, Col. Patrick Edward Connor, to assume control and protection of the mail route. Col. Connor became stationed in Salt Lake City, with orders to monitor the activities of the Mormons. [18]

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By July 24, 1861, Downey, collaborating with General Sumner, had raised four regiments of infantry and six companies of cavalry, fully equipped and ready for deployment. This is more than Washington had requested. In total, California contributed more than 16,000 troops to the Union Army (eight infantry and two cavalry regiments, plus smaller special units). Though most California volunteers served in the Western Theater of the war, there was a "California Battalion" which served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry. Also serving was "Col. Edward Baker's California Regiment" which, after Baker's death at the battle of Ball's Bluff in November 1861, was adopted by the 71<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry and fought in every major action under taken by the Army of the Potomac.

In October of 1861, when Governor Downey sent the first transcontinental telegraph message to President Lincoln, he stated, "I will keep California safe for the Union."

### Roundin' up the Varmints

As it became clear that there would be no successful insurrection in California, the chief Confederate conspirators jumped ship and headed back to Dixie. Governor Downey issued orders to set up blockades, primarily on the Southern route out of the state via San Diego to Yuma. Also, when Confederate sympathizers were known to have boarded ships bound for East Coast cities, he made sure that the appropriate authorities were telegraphed as to their arrival, so that they would be arrested. Such was the case of Senator Gwin.

In October of 1861, Brigadier General George Wright replaced General Sumner, who had been recalled for service in the East. When he sailed from San Francisco that month, his ship also carried the traitors Senator Gwin and Calhoun Benham, who had been one of Terry's seconds in his duel with Broderick. Sumner, learned that the Confederates had approached several of his officers, and was supplied with the evidence that Gwin appeared to be in route to Havana, Cuba to meet with chief Confederate conspirators, John Slidell and James M. Mason, and then accompany them to Europe. As the ship approached Panama, General Sumner had Gwin, Benham and a J.L. Brent arrested on the charge of treason. He compelled his prisoners to accompany him to New York. Unfortunately, he did not confine his prisoners. As a result, Sumner most likely lost the evidence of the entire Confederate conspiracy, when Gwin was observed throwing maps and papers overboard immediately after his arrest.[19]

After arriving in New York, Gwin and his cohorts were held at Fort Warren and then transferred to Fort Lafayette, where they were soon released. Benham and Brent joined the Confederate army, while Gwin, after spending some time in Mississippi, joined Slidell in France.

From Paris, Gwin set about his last attempt to create a "Pacific Republic," with himself as its chief. Gwin knew that Napoleon III intended to appoint Archduke Maximilian of Austria the emperor of Mexico, and convinced Napoleon that he would be able to secure the northern border of Mexico. His plan was to have himself supervise the immigration of American slaveholders and those with experience in mining to Sonora, to replicate the "California model." When rumors reached the United States that Gwin was going to be appointed Duke of Sonora by Napoleon, he was already in England, on his way to Mexico.

Gwin's reception by Emperor Maximilian in Mexico City did not go unnoticed in Washington or California. The *Alta California* wrote that Gwin was conspiring to "unite California with the Mexican States on the Pacific to form a Pacific Republic." General Grant wrote to Brigadier General Wright, now in charge of the Pacific Coast Union forces, of a possible invasion from Mexico:

"It is known that Dr. Gwin, former United States Senator from Cal., has gone to Mexico and taken service under the Maximilian government. The Dr. is a rebel of the most virulent order. His being formerly a resident of California, and now getting to that State in Mexico bordering on the State of his former residence, portends no good to us. May it not be his design to entice into Sonora the dissatisfied spirits of California, and if the opportunity occurs, organize them and invade the State? I write, without having discussed this question with any one, to put you on your guard against what I believe may prove a great danger. Watch this matter closely, and should you find these apprehensions well founded, prepare to meet them." [20]

However, Maximilian was far from enthusiastic about implementing Gwin's grand design, and after six months Gwin returned to Paris to lobby Napoleon. Gwin was in France when the Civil War ended. Upon returning to New Orleans, William Gwin was arrested by General Sheridan and incarcerated in a Mississippi fort.

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### California Gold & Russians in the Harbor

Before concluding this part of the history of California, dealing with the Civil War, two additional stories must be told.

The first concerns the role of the substance that had initially caused the great emigration of the 1850s – gold. California's gold played a crucial part in financing the war effort of the Union. It was transported by ship from Northern California, across the Isthmus of Panama, and re-loaded aboard ships on the Gulf of Mexico which then brought it to the East Coast cities of the North. In 1863, Senator John Conness, who had replaced the treasonous Senator Latham during that year, got hold of intelligence reports that the British were colluding with the Confederacy to steal California's gold. Confederate naval cruisers were being outfitted at the British docks in China in order to intercept Union gold ships, during the Pacific leg of the voyage. Conness got absolutely no cooperation on stopping this plot from the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, and so went directly to President Lincoln. The President, understanding the urgency of the situation, took the matter to Admiral Fox, whom Lincoln had employed to lead the effort to organize the U.S. Navy. After Conness had fully briefed Fox on the plot, the Admiral replied, "It's a serious matter and will be attended to in like manner. It's a problem that calls for secrecy at every level, this you well understand."<sup>[20]</sup> Measures were then taken by the U.S. government to nullify the threat posed to California's gold shipments, but what guaranteed its protection was when Admiral Popov and his fleet of six Russian Navy warships sailed (and steamed) into San Francisco harbor in September 1863.

This is the second story. It is one of the most critical developments of the Civil War and cannot be found in today's history textbooks, including those dealing with California, yet it was known by all Americans at the time. The historic event was that the entire Russian Navy arrived simultaneously on both coasts of the United States on September 24, 1863, as guests of the United States. However, it was more than a social call that had brought the Russians to New York and San Francisco. At the time, the world was poised on the brink of a global shooting war. It was this action by Russia, in concert with the Lincoln Administration, which prevented Great Britain and Napoleon III of France, Britain's puppet petite-Emperor, from launching a military intervention against the Union, on the side of the Confederacy. The arrival of the Russian fleets in the U.S. immediately generated a rumor, which was not without substance, that the Russians were carrying sealed orders from Alexander II that if the British and/or French were to conduct military operations against the Union, then they would intervene on the side of the Union.<sup>[22]</sup>

The Russian Naval "visit" had been pre-arranged as a crucial part of a conscious effort to form an international alliance, centered around the American System economic policies of development, specifically represented by Henry C. Carey, against the degenerate imperial policy of British Empire, "free trade" colonialism. The political alliance with Russia was carried out, on behalf of President Lincoln, by the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Cassius Marcellus Clay, the nephew of Henry Clay. Cassius Clay's personal mission was to forge an alliance based on republican principles between Russia, the U.S., and Benito Juarez of Mexico.

The Russians were well aware of the strategic implications of the American Civil War. Two days after the State of Georgia voted to secede, Stoekl, the Russian Minister in Washington, D.C., sent a dispatch to the government in St. Petersburg, stating, "Great Britain seems about to enjoy a stroke of fortune rare in history. She alone will profit by the destruction of the United States, for it will be fatal to the rest of the world." Czar Alexander II's support for the Union was unwavering, and his nation's commitment to the American alliance is reflected in a dispatch issued from Russian Foreign Minister Gorchakov to Stoekl at the beginning of the Civil War. Subsequently, Stoekl read the dispatch to Secretary of State William Seward and made it public in a speech given in Boston by Edward Everett. It reads:

"The American Union is not merely, in our eyes, an element to the universal equilibrium. It constitutes also a nation to which our August Emperor and all Russia have pledged the most friendly interest. These two countries, placed at the extremities of the two worlds, and both in the ascending scale of their development, appear called to a natural community of interests and sympathies of which they have already given mutual proofs to each other."

The Russian fleets remained in American harbors for seven months, leaving in April 1864. During Admiral Lessovsky's stay in New York City harbor, he and his Russian officers and sailors were continually celebrated with parades, grand balls, and other festivities, including an onboard visit by the First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln.

In San Francisco, the public fanfare was much more subdued for the arrival and visit of Admiral Popov's fleet. However, they were a welcome sight to patriots, especially since the lone, leaky, old Union gunboat stationed in the San Francisco harbor sank two weeks after the arrival of the Russians. In appreciation for the hospitality shown to

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his fleet by the city of San Francisco, Admiral Popov held a banquet aboard his flagship attended by local dignitaries and Governor Stanford.

During the winter of 1863-64, credence was being given to Senator Conness' warnings when rumors swept the state that the Confederate raiders *Alabama* and *Sumter* were going to attack. The California government requested protection from Admiral Popov. The Admiral's reply reinforced the British fears about a "secret alliance" between Russian and the U.S.:

"Should a Southern cruiser attempt an assault . . . we shall put on steam and clear for action. . . . The ships of his Imperial majesty are bound to assist the authorities of every place where friendship is offered them, in all measures which may be deemed necessary by the local authorities, to repel any attempt against the security of the place."

As a result of the Russian-American alliance, Confederate ships never attacked the West Coast, nor did the British or French forces directly intervene militarily on the side of the Confederacy. In 1864, when Admiral Lessovsky had returned to Russia, he paid a visit to Ambassador Clay to praise him "for the cordial and brilliant reception which was extended to the Russian flag by the government and the people of the United States." In response, Clay said something, the subject of which, has been viewed as a nightmare for the British oligarchy ever since:

"Though one Government be autocratic and the other republican, no necessary antagonism results from such difference of form. . . . We (Americans) know that political institutions grow. They are not made. Since Catherine II we have been friends, because it was in our interest to be so. But allow me to say, Admiral, that the enthusiasm with which you have been received in America sprang from no such cold calculations. It was based on a higher principle than interest – sentiments yet nobler than the gratitude which we owed your Emperor for his friendship in our hour of trial and misfortune – it came as a common cause in the advancement of humanity." [23]

Such an Russian-American alliance would later be put forward in 1920 by a consortium of Los Angeles-based California businessmen who had put together a \$3 billion trade deal with Russia, the largest trade agreement up to that time in history. As President Harding took office, the British directly sabotaged the deal, which, if it had been allowed to transpire, would have certainly changed the course of politics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. [24]

### Governor Downey's other Contributions

John Downey's historic role in taking the decisive actions that kept California in the Union and mobilized the state to defend the nation, of course, over shadows his other accomplishments, but they are worthy of mention. Those include, as Governor Downey stated in his January 7, 1861 State of the State address to the legislature: "commencement of our State Capitol, the State Reform School, at Marysville, the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Asylum, at San Francisco, the increased donations to the Orphan Asylums and other objects of charity, the Boundry Survey, the Geological Survey and the increased appropriation for the Insane Asylum."

In addition to establishing the State Library, Downey worked closely with the federal government, which had donated seventy-two land grants in California, in the establishment of "Common Schools" (i.e. public schools) and a "University." In sharp contrast to today's proponents of the 'voucher system' which would eliminate any meaningful public education, Downey told the State Legislature that:

"It may be safely affirmed that a general system of education, whereby the children of the poor as well as the rich are afforded access to the portals of science and literature, is the most necessary of all the supports to the edifice of civil liberty. To say nothing of the philanthropy of the work of training the minds of the children of the State to the principles of virtue and the refining influences of intellectual culture, it has ever been conceded that republican institutions depend for their existence entirely upon the virtue and intelligence of the people." [25]

Downey also played an important role in promoted the agricultural development of California. He supported the state's agricultural societies and took measures to encourage the cultivation of cotton, which has become a major product in the state, as well as, flax and corn.

Another agricultural product, which has now become famous throughout the world, was developed with the full backing of the Governor – wine. Carrying on the earlier efforts of the Franciscan padres who founded the California missions in the late 1700s and introduced the first vineyards in the state, Downey was a fervent supporter of Agoston



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Haraszthy (1812-1869), a Hungarian immigrant who became known as the Father of the California Wine Industry. Haraszthy had settled in San Diego in 1849. He was elected to the State Assembly, procured the funding necessary to expand San Diego Harbor, and build the first hospital in that county. Later, Haraszthy moved to the Sonoma Valley in Northern California.

In 1861, Downey appointed Haraszthy to be one of three agricultural Commissioners, the others being Juan Jose Warner of Los Angeles and J.A. Ramirez of Marysville. Ramirez traveled to South America in search of suitable plants to be imported for production in California. Haraszthy went to Europe in order to select those vine cuttings that would be best suited for introduction into California's climate and soil conditions. During Haraszthy's five-month expedition throughout Europe (which Downey helped to personally finance), he and his son purchased 100,000 grapevines, representing more than 350 varieties, and brought them back to California. He also brought back planting stocks for olives, almonds, pomegranates, oranges, lemons and chestnuts. Among the grape cuttings was the "Muscat of Alexander" raisin grape and what would later be developed as the uniquely Californian "Zinfandel" red wine grape. The trip also resulted in the publication of his eminent 1862 report, *Grape Culture, Wines and Wine-Making; with Notes upon Agriculture and Horticulture*. Later, when the German and French wine industry was decimated by a root blight, it was saved by importing the resistant root stock that Haraszthy had originally brought to California from Europe.

On January 8, 1863, John Downey presented the "Governor's Annual Address" to the State Legislature in Sacramento. In that speech Downey presented his vision for California to become America's gateway for trade and commerce with the Asian nations of the Pacific Rim. In order to accomplish that mission, and surpass "England and France," Downey urged the employment of California's resources to "enable the General Government to put afloat upon the waters of the Pacific, a large navy, both for the protection of our maritime and commercial interests, and for the peaceful conquest by a wise policy of the nations that from their natural position must sooner or later become commercial tributaries of California. Our sails ought now to cover the Pacific ocean." After calling on the federal government to establish "regular line packets between San Francisco and China," Downey outlined his comprehension of American System economics and the proper role of government in fostering economic growth:

"The expenditures necessary to put such a line of steamships into this trade involves too great an outlay for the individual enterprise and means of our merchants; but being once started by Governmental subsidy the best informed of our commercial men are of the opinion that such increased facilities of communication would stimulate trade to such a degree that the Government's aid would not long be required."

However, the Governor stressed in his presentation that there was another national infrastructure project that had to take precedence:

*"But we can never hope to assume a supremacy as a commercial State, nor can the United States avail herself of her superior natural advantages, which would make her the greatest maritime nation on earth, until we have a railroad completed connecting the Atlantic and Pacific."* [emphasis in the original]

Much has been presented already in this report about the historic role of the European oligarchy, particularly the British, and their goal to achieve the disintegration of the Union and the elimination of the principles upon which it was founded. The conclusion of Governor Downey's message address precisely that problem, and his resolution to resolve it by reaffirming the true mission of the United States: [all emphasis is in the original]

*"The founders of American liberty did not consider their work concluded their institutions safe, until they had formed 'A MORE PERFECT UNION' than existed between the thirteen colonies during the revolutionary struggle, for the preamble to the first compact reads as follows: 'Articles of Confederation and PERPETUAL Union between the States;' showing that from the beginning the Union was one of the principles of the revolution, lasting as the life of a nation. The policy of the mother country had been to keep the several colonies, as so many separate provinces, without any bond of union between them of associated counsels, combined strength, or commercial privileges. Union and nationality, therefore, early became one of the principles of the revolution, without which the liberties of the people were not considered safe against the intrigues and alliances of the crowned heads and aristocracy of Europe, who are as hostile to Republican institutions now as they were in any past generation. It was considered that, without a supreme government to concentrate and wield the united strength of the whole, the new States would be incapable of maintaining their republican institutions against the combinations of European monarchies. That unless there was sovereign power in a National Congress, to guarantee and preserve peace between the several States, that internal discord and jealousies, promoted by ambitious men taking advantage of local prejudices and interests, would inevitably lead to civil war, as had been illustrated by the history of the ancient Grecian republics. That the principle of UNITY between*

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*the separate States, on the grounds of perfect equality in rights, in justice and in benefits, as expressed in the motto 'E PLURIBUS UNUM,' was the vital element of our free institutions and personal liberties; UNITY for defence, for the protection of our commerce, for the suppression of domestic insurrections, and for the general welfare. . . . For the protection of their commerce on the high seas, for the purpose of preventing monarchical ideas and policy from overrunning the American Continent, as they have overrun and subdued Europe, a Union of some kind will be found absolutely necessary between these Republican States. The principle of Union is life, - the principle of Disintegration is death, to American policy, American greatness, and American progress and civilization; . . .*

*"In the very beginning of the process of severance and disintegration of the American Union, we have a demonstration of the fact, that however hostile to each other European monarchies may be, they will settle their own disputes, and league together for the suppression of republican ideas and the maintenance of privilege, birth, and official honors in hereditary descent. Three of the great powers of Europe have now combined to force monarchical institutions and aristocratic privileges upon that living embodiment of Disunion principles, the Republic of Mexico. And if the present unhappy war continues in the United States, until the forces of the Republic are unable longer from exhaustion to prolong the conflict, except in guerrilla warfare between the sections, the same Powers will combine to enforce aristocracy and royalty upon Americans, partitioning among themselves the splendid domain of the present American Empire. The Union of the States is not only necessary to the existence of republican institutions on this continent, but it is the only hope of the oppressed nationalists of Europe in their aspirations for liberal laws and equal rights. The same combinations of monarchical power and wealth have heretofore been successful in crushing republican ideas upon the Eastern continent, wherever they began to obtain ascendancy in any portion of Europe. The increasing power and greatness of the American Union had inspired hope in the oppressed of Eastern nations that, in due time, the policy asserted by us on this continent, -- non-interference of European monarchies in crushing out republican institutions, -- would be extended there. . . ."*

### **Building the City of the Angels**

In 1850, Los Angeles was no more than a small cow town, and a far cry from its Spanish name – “El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles” (“The Town of Our Lady of the Angels”).[26] A census taken of California that year found that the entire population of the counties of Los Angeles and Orange was 8,329. Approximately half of those were native Indians.

Only 274 residences were listed within the City of Los Angeles and an additional 244 were located in the surrounding region. Downey later stated that when he first arrived, “Los Angeles was the most pock marked city you ever saw. There were only two two-story buildings.” The city had no schools, no library, no newspaper and one church. Cows so outnumbered people that Los Angeles County, which by 1854 supported over 100,000 cattle, far more than any other county in the state, earned the nickname “Queen of the Cow Counties.”

Los Angeles also had no pharmacy, but John Downey soon solved that problem by opening his drug store there in partnership with Dr. James P. McFarland.

During 1852, John Downey married Maria Jesus Guirado, a Los Angeles native from a family of early Spanish settlers. During that same year, Downey was elected to the Los Angeles City Council. He was later elected as County Supervisor, and became a rising star in the Democratic Party. At the time, the overwhelming number of Democrats in Los Angeles who had elected Downey were Southern partisans and pro-slavery. During the administration of President James Buchanan, Downey held commissions as Disbursing Agent for the Treasury Department, Collector of the Port of San Pedro, and Superintendent of Lighthouses.

As Governor, Downey’s actions during the Civil War had betrayed the Confederate aims of his own wing of the Democratic Party. Also, with President Lincoln’s Republican Party on the ascendancy during the Civil War, he knew that any higher political ambitions, he might have had, would most likely be over with his one two-year term as governor. Undoubtedly, this bolstered his ability to govern upon principle, in the face of national crisis, rather than any short-term “practical consideration.”

On January 10, 1862, Leland Stanford, a Republican, replaced John Downey as Governor of California, by running on a combined Republican and Union Democratic ticket. Although the Democratic Party did back him for re-election in 1863, Frederick F. Low, the candidate of the Union Democrat Party, controlled in California by Senator Conness, won the election for governor. It was the state’s first four-year term for governor. In 1864, the Democratic Party nominated Downey as a candidate for congress, but he declined. Downey had returned to Southern California with a

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mission to implement, in Los Angeles, the vision of the kind of great economic development that he had portrayed in his addresses to the state legislature.

First and foremost, that meant dealing with the absence of any modern infrastructure in the region. The great drought of 1862-64 changed the face of the Los Angeles area forever. Only four inches of rain fell during the winter of 1862-63, and then it was not until March 1864 that a single drop of rain fell in Los Angeles County. The 'Queen of the Cow Counties' quickly fell from her throne as the cattle industry was decimated. Consequently, not one penny of tax revenue out of a total assessment of \$2,000,000 was collected during that period. Though the rains finally returned in 1864, Downey and other community leaders determined that the obsolete network of open, unsanitary ditches, graciously referred to as a "public water/irrigation system," had to be improved.

When the Civil War had started, one of the only two men in Los Angeles that had joined the Union Army was Charles N. Jenkins, who had been in charge of overseeing water distribution to the residents from the open ditches. The residents had depended on a constant flow of water coming down from the Los Angeles Mountains through the foothills by way of the Los Angeles River. The drought had proved this sole water source to be unreliable. There was some success at mitigating the water shortage by digging artesian wells, first achieved in a drilling, by Downey, in what is now the City of Compton. It produced a remarkable four-foot geyser.

In his October 1873 address to the Irrigating Convention, held in Los Angeles, Downey suggested a number of measures, including the employment of Ericsson steam-engine pumps, that should be taken to improve the water supply situation "for the good of the whole State." Believing that there was sufficient water available for the population, Downey invoked the Constitutional idea of protecting the "general welfare" in order to solve the problem of obtaining the necessary infrastructure:

"I suggest that the Commonwealth assert its jurisdiction over every stream in the State, and enact such equitable laws as will extend their usefulness to their utmost capacity. The riparian, or proprietary rights, maintained in England and recognized in many of our States as the law governing rivers and streams, do not apply to California. . . . this right is expressly reserved to the nation as public *servitude*."

To solve the problem of providing a reliable efficient source of water, Downey became instrumental in organizing the establishment of the Los Angeles Water Company. Downey became president of the company, which would eventually become the Department of Water and Power (DWP). He would also help to hire a fellow-Irishman by the name of William Mulholland in 1877. Mulholland became the chief engineer and general manager for the Bureau of Water Works and Supply, now the Water System of the DWP.

In order to provide the water to the growing metropolis of Los Angeles, Mulholland would eventually design and construct the largest and most extensive water system of dams and aqueducts in the world. His 225-mile aqueduct was the first long distant, gravity flow aqueduct built in America. Later, at the age of 68, Mulholland, would undertake the survey of 50,000 square miles of desert that eventually resulted in determining the route of the Colorado River Aqueduct, that created the Metropolitan Water District which services Los Angeles and 130 other communities in six Southern California counties. It should also be noted that the Los Angeles DWP, as a publicly owned utility, is the only utility district today in the State of California which has not suffered the energy shortages and gouging price-hikes imposed by the gang of pirates who have been privatizing the electricity-generating industry.

As the Civil War ended in 1865, and as a by-product of the 1860s drought, Downey subdivided his land holding of the St. Gertrude Rancho, along the San Gabriel River, creating small farms through the newly formed Downey Land Association. He would later establish the first planned neighborhood of Los Angeles, Lincoln Heights in East Los Angeles, complete with piped in water.

In the wake of the end of the war, and before the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, more than 200,000 people immigrated to California. This increased the state population by about one-third, with most settling in Southern California. In order to finance the growth in the region, John Downey established the first bank in Los Angeles in partnership with J. A. Hayward of San Francisco, called the "Hayward & Company Bank." The bank opened on Main Street in 1868 with \$100,000 capital. Another competing bank was soon formed but by 1871, after some bad management problems, was bought out by Isaias W. Hellman, one of the partners. Hellman then merged his bank with Downey and Hayward to form the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which became a cornerstone of the commercial development of the region and state well into the twentieth century. The bank was later bought by Security Pacific Bank of Los Angeles.

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Today's downtown Los Angeles area where the City Hall and other government buildings are located, between Main and Temple Streets, was originally called "Downey Block." This is because John Downey had developed it as the city's first retail and trade district.

John Downey also helped to organize the Los Angeles Board of Trade (now called the Chamber of Commerce), the Los Angeles Public Library, the Historical Society of Southern California, and put in the second horse-drawn car line in town. In 1879, Downey, Isaias W. Hellman, and Ozro W. Childs donated 308-acres of land in South Central Los Angeles to establish the campus of the University of Southern California. Downey was also elected to be on the first board of directors of USC.

### **Bringing the Railroad to Los Angeles**

The first railroad line in Southern California started operation on September 7, 1869 and was built to connect the wharves owned by Phineas Banning at Wilmington to a station constructed about 20 miles away in Los Angeles at Alameda and Commerce Streets. The rail line was owned and operated by the San Pedro Railroad Company which had been established a year earlier. The company had been capitalized at \$500,000 with a \$250,000 bond voted on by the citizens and the remainder put up by Downey, Banning and others. Both Downey and Banning were on the board of directors of the railroad.

Phineas Banning (1830-1885) had moved to California from his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. Banning led the effort over many years to develop what became the Port of Los Angeles in the San Pedro/Wilmington area. Upon arriving in Los Angeles in 1851, he started work at the port of San Pedro, which then consisted of only a small shack and one rickety, old pier owned by the Sepulveda family. He soon established an extensive wagon service, including the route from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles. When he learned that the U.S. government was going to construct a military fort on the Tejon Pass, he built a road there from Los Angeles in order to service the fort. At the same time, he organized a local petition that got the federal government to certify San Pedro as an international trade port.

In 1854, Phineas Banning, along with John Downey, Don Benito Wilson, and William Sanford made a real estate purchase of 2,400 acres (part of the Rancho de San Pedro), that would eventually be developed into the kind of world-class port that Phineas dreamed of building. With 640 acres of that parcel, near the mud flats of San Pedro, Banning established the town of Wilmington. With many improvements, including the cutting of a canal, the first ocean-going ship anchored in San Pedro in 1859. One other joint venture of Downey and Banning was the formation of Pioneer Oil, on January 24, 1865 "for the purpose of prospecting for petroleum." Pioneer was the first oil company in California, and it exploited the resources of what is now Hancock Park and the La Brea Tar Pits (*brea* is the Spanish word for tar).

Banning also established the first telegraph lines in 1860, starting in Wilmington, which connected the communications link between Los Angeles and the rest of the nation. When the Civil War started he donated 160 acres of his land, next to his own home, to build the Union Army base, the Drum Barracks. In the land of LeCompton Democrats, Phineas Banning was an egregious supporter of, and campaigner for, President Lincoln.

As useful and necessary as the Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad was, Los Angeles needed to be connected by rail to the rest of the nation. This was no easy task, since Los Angeles is in a basin surrounded by mountains on all sides, except for the southern coastline that leads to San Diego.

With the completion of the transcontinental railroad that was joined at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869, John Downey began to organize for a rail link to Los Angeles. While visiting San Francisco, Downey met with his brother-in-law, Peter Donahue. Born in Glasgow, Donahue had become a well-established businessman and friend of the California railroad tycoons. Upon asking what kind of perspective there was for building a Los Angeles connection, Donahue replied, "I can tell you John, that the Big Four – Huntington, Crocker, Stanford and Hopkins – have plans to extend a loop from San Francisco to New Orleans."

"And by pass Los Angeles entirely?" Downey responded.

"It would seem so. They feel that there is not enough population or commerce there to make boring through the mountains worthwhile, and from what I know, rails will go through the San Joaquin Valley, branch out at the southern end – and go to Yuma in Arizona"

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“So the cars will run on the wrong side of the Sierra Madre. Well, not without a fight,” said Downey as he stood up and hit the table with his fist.[27] Thus ensued a battle over a Southern California rail route, primarily between Stanford and the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Los Angeles forces, center around Downey.

On his return to Los Angeles, Downey convened a meeting at the courthouse of the area's four hundred leading citizens to figure out a strategy to bring the railroad to their city. They voted to offer Southern Pacific five percent of the county's assessed value, which would include stock in the Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad. A 'Committee of Thirty' was established to work out the arrangements. John Downey and Harris Newmark, a leading merchant, were appointed to travel to San Francisco to conduct negotiations with Stanford.

The negotiations lasted a month. Downey understood that who ever controlled the San Pedro line to Los Angeles would also control the freight costs, but he had little choice. Stanford finally accepted the offer, if the Los Angeles voters would agree to give Southern Pacific \$602,000 in stocks of the Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad and any other bonds that Southern Pacific would lay, within fifteen months of a positive vote. This would include twenty-five miles of track running north from Los Angeles towards the San Fernando Mission and another twenty-five mile track from Los Angeles to San Bernardino. Not wanting to allow San Bernardino to become the rail hub and capital of Southern California, Downey played his trump card and offered to turn over the entire Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad to Stanford, as long as the main line came through Los Angeles. Stanford accepted the terms.

However, another player had entered the game. He was Thomas Alexander Scott, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which was a centerpiece of the national and international development projects of the American nationalists, based in Philadelphia and lead by the world's greatest economist of the time, Henry C. Carey. During the Civil War, Scott was appointed to the newly created position of Assistant Secretary of War in the fall of 1861 and put in charge of transportation of the armies. Among other things, this involved railroad construction throughout the nation.

When Congress passed the Texas railroad bill in 1871, which provided for a Southern transcontinental route, Scott had become president of the Union Pacific Railroad, as well as, the new Texas & Pacific Railroad Company. He soon arrived in San Diego with a charter to build his Southern route to that city. Scott bought the rights from a paper company to build a railroad called the Los Angeles & San Diego Railroad. Now Los Angeles had two competitors to build their railroad connection.

California's Big Four fought to keep Scott out of California. Charles Crocker later stated that that if the Texas & Pacific was allowed to cross the Colorado River, "Tom Scott was bound to scalp the Central Pacific." [28] Stanford made a decision to fight Scott and his Southern California allies, and he made plans to build the Southern Pacific line through Yuma into Texas to allegedly protect California from Scott.

As for Scott, he had little interest in the San Pedro line, since he would have his port connection in San Diego. However, Downey, at first in support of the Scott proposal, began to rethink the idea of Los Angeles having its main port link more than 100 miles south in San Diego. He came back to support Stanford, and on November 25, 1872, the citizens of Los Angeles voted in favor of the Southern Pacific deal.

At that time, a new wrinkle came into planning the railroad route, when the silver discovery in the Panamint Mountain Range of Death Valley, located in eastern California near the Nevada border, expanded. In 1870, it was estimated that silver bullion had been coming into Los Angeles by wagon at the rate of \$50,000 worth per day, with over 700 tons coming through annually, and that rate had been increasing. The two senators from the newly established State of Nevada, who were both Comstock millionaires, John Percival Jones and Williams Stewart, traveled to Los Angeles to try and persuade Downey to join their efforts and shift the economic center of Southern California to Panamint. Downey would have none of it, but the Big Four interests, always willing to point their rail lines in the direction of a quick buck, raised their freight rates for bullion carried on their newly acquired Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad to usurious levels. So, on July 31, 1873, John Downey was again elected to head a citizens committee to deal with the problem that was crippling the ability of local farmers and merchants to ship their goods.

The two Nevada silver barons, who also had no appreciation for Southern Pacific's heavy handed looting, threw their weight, and an investment of \$210,000, behind Downey and the Los Angeles Railroad. The battle entered the congressional arena, when Southern Pacific attempted get legislation that would allow them to bypass Los Angeles.

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When Scott lost his bid to bring his line into Los Angeles, his chief surveyor from Philadelphia, Joseph U. Crawford, found himself unemployed, until Downey hired him to literally cut Stanford and pals off at the pass. Crawford determined that the key to building an overland rail route from Los Angeles would be to secure the Cajon Pass north of San Bernardino, which would allow access to the high desert of Mojave and a clear line east. When Crawford returned to the Cajon Pass with his work crew, in order to stake out the Los Angeles claim to that route, he spied Southern Pacific surveyors on the summit. A race ensued between the two crews, ending in Crawford's staking the claim for the pass. Instead of attempting to locate a new route, Southern Pacific re-negotiated their deal with Los Angeles.

On September 4, 1876, John and Maria Downey, accompanied by Los Angeles Mayor Prudent Beaudry and other community leaders, traveled by train from the Alameda Station, north through the new San Fernando Railroad Tunnel. One thousand Chinese laborers had spent almost a year digging the 6,940-foot tunnel, making it the third longest tunnel in the U.S.. The tunnel linked the Los Angeles basin from the San Fernando Valley, at the Newhall Pass, to the Santa Clarita Valley, and from there to Northern California. The train of the Downey delegation stopped at Tehachapi. There they met a train coming from San Francisco carrying Leland Stanford and Charles Crocker. Former-Governor Downey spoke at the "Golden Spike" ceremony, and Crocker drove the final spike to complete the rail line amid the cheers of the gathered crowd. Los Angeles was now connected to the transcontinental railroad grid.

Tragically, the very railroad that John Downey had organized to be built took the life of his wife Maria on January 20, 1883, when the train they were traveling on crashed near the summit of the Techachapi Mountains. Nineteen other passengers also died in the crash. Downey suffered several broken ribs, and later said "my constitution shattered from which I have never fully recovered." [29] His grief over the loss of Maria had a debilitating effect on the ex-governor, whose mental capabilities began to significantly degenerate.

### The Philadelphia Centennial

Earlier that year, before the rail link ceremony took place at Tehachapi, the Downeys had traveled to New York City and Philadelphia. Downey's Farmers & Merchants Bank had successfully weathered the financial panic of 1873, and he headed East to organize the emigration movement needed to make Los Angeles the kind of international metropolis he envisioned.

The Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876 was an international event that showcased how the Old World could be transformed and uplifted with the American System, whose epicenter was the City of Brotherly Love. The newest inventions of science and technology were displayed. More than one thousand machines in the Machinery Hall exhibit were powered by a single, huge Corliss engine. A virtual army of national and international dignitaries and leading figures descended on the Exhibition, and overall attendance was estimated to be approximately nine million people.

John Downey was a member of the California State Board of Centennial Managers that organized the state's exhibit for the Exhibition. California had its own building at the Exhibition, where it displayed its achievements. It was fertile ground for Downey, who arrived there armed with pamphlets he had written to distribute to the attendees. It advertised the advantages of moving themselves, and whatever enterprise they might be involved in, to Los Angeles, the "Queen of the Pacific."

### **Downey City: from horse and buggy to the Moon**

With the understanding that the coming of the railroad would change the landscape of Southern California, the Downey Land Association had been established in 1873. The core of the real estate venture had been the 1857 purchase, by Downey and his pharmacy partner McFarland, of the 17,602 acres that comprised the Santa Gertrudes Ranch. It would eventually constitute the townships of Downey, Norwalk, and Santa Fe Springs. As mentioned previously, after the Civil War and the drought of the 1860s, Downey began breaking up the original Ranch into smaller plots for farming. In November 1866, Downey put up 20,000 acres of "choice agricultural land" in the San Gabriel River Valley for sale at \$10 per acre, with as little as a ten percent down payment required.

The climate and fertile soil favored almost any crop. These included beans, barley, wheat, potatoes, cotton, corn, lemons, limes, figs, dates, walnuts, grapes, and oranges. The promotion and cultivation of oranges was one of Downey's special agricultural projects, for which California has become famous. Also introduced, but not sustained

## John Gately Downey -Timeline with Endnote

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for long, were mulberry bushes, used in silk production, and tobacco. By 1875, this region, known as the Los Nietos Valley, produced more than half of the agricultural produce grown in Los Angeles County.

In 1874, Downey City (now simply called Downey) was established in the midst of the Los Nietos Valley. To efficiently connect Downey City with the rest of the region and the nation, John Downey personally supervised the laying of the tracks of the new Los Angeles-Anaheim Railroad. This spur line linked the Orange County town of Anaheim to Downey City and then to Los Angeles. During the 1880s, Downey City became a showcase for the agricultural development of California, with its hosting of the Los Angeles County Fair.

When John G. Downey died in Los Angeles in 1884, Los Angeles was in the midst of a ten-year-long, pitched battle over the location for its new deep-water port. Collis P. Huntington and his Southern Pacific Railroad had spent a small fortune to locate the harbor at Santa Monica. That site afforded no natural shelter, but did have an abundance of land and the town's single pier, all owned by Southern Pacific. Senator Stephen Mallory White, California's first native-born Senator whose father had come from Ireland, led the 'David vs. Goliath' battle over the location and development of the port at San Pedro, and had the support of, among others, California's Military Commandant, General Arthur MacArthur, the father of General Douglas MacArthur. White had been a friend of John Downey, as well as, the legal executor of his Will.

The U.S. Congress finally agreed with Senator White, and authorized the construction of the port. At the San Pedro Jubilee Festival of April 26, 1899, marking the beginning of construction of the port, Senator White spoke at length on how the United States had far exceeded Britain in the production and export of iron and other products. He also provided his idea of the city's historical mission:

"Fellow citizens, the missionary (Father Junipero Serra) knew the truth when he chose these spots as fit for habitation. . . . He understood the capabilities of his surroundings; he read the future. . . Your course is toward the stars; your culmination is yet to come."

By 1920, the vision that John Downey had to transform his City of the Angels into a modern metropolis had come to fruition. The state's population was 3,426,861 and the combined counties of Los Angeles and Orange had grown to 998,000. Emigration had brought the people and skills to Los Angeles that provided for the growth of a myriad of modern industries.

The Port of Los Angeles was becoming that American gateway to Asia and the world. Los Angeles had become the largest export oil port in the United States (12,000,000 barrels per annum). All the major ports of South America were being built with lumber exported from the Port of Los Angeles, itself the largest lumber importer in the U.S. The industrial and agricultural mobilization of World War II would make Los Angeles one of the most important and productive cities in the world.

In the post-World War II era, the town of Downey became one of the leading centers of the nation's aerospace/defense industry. During the 1950s, Rockwell built a facility there specializing in the development of control systems and propulsion guidance for missiles. With the establishment of the 160 acre NASA site in Downey, during the 1960s, 35,000 people worked on President Kennedy's mission of a manned-landing on the Moon, by building the Apollo command and service modules. Later, the Space Shuttle construction program took place at the site.

Today, the consequences of our nation's toleration of Free Trade, "New Economy" looting of America's once proud, leadership in science and technology is witnessed by the vacant 160 acre lot which once built the vehicles that took Mankind into space. A sight which would certainly make John Gately Downey recoil in anger and disgust, and start looking around for the modern day varmints, like the old Confederate, Chivalry traitors, in order to deal with them in a similar manner.

### Footnotes:

1. Henry Clay, the most outspoken leader of the American System of economics at the time, defined the patriotic opposition to Free Trade in his historic speech "In Defence of the American System," given before the U.S. Senate, during February 1832:

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"When gentlemen have succeeded in their design of an immediate or gradual destruction of the American system, what is their substitute? Free trade? Free trade! The call for free trade is as unavailing, as the cry of a spoiled child in its nurse's arms, for the moon, or the stars that glitter in the firmament heaven. It never existed, it never has existed, it never will exist. Trade implies at least two parties. To be free, it should be fair, equal, and reciprocal. But if we throw our ports wide open to the admission of foreign productions, free of all duty, what ports of any foreign nation shall we find open to the free admission of our surplus produce? . . . It is not free trade that they are recommending to our acceptance. It is, in effect, the British colonial system that we are invited to adopt; and, if their policy prevail, it will lead substantially to the re-colonization of these states, under the commercial domination of Great Britain."

For Clay's entire speech, see *The Life and Speeches of the Hon. Henry Clay*, Van Amringe and Bixby, New York, 1844, vol. II, pp. 5-55.

2. Arthur Quin, *The Rivals*, Crown Publishers Inc., New York, 1994, pp. 132-133. Later, Bigler became a supporter of Broderick and U.S. Ambassador to Chile. There, he organized the government to hire his old, Democratic Party friend from San Francisco, Henry Meiggs, to construct railroads. Meiggs became famous in Peru for engineering that nation's rail lines, pioneering new techniques in construction through the Andes Mountains.

3. This excerpt is from a letter written by Sherman on May 18, 1856, and with its four-page postscript of May 20, is sixteen pages in length. It describes the events around the Vigilance Committee affair. The original letter, partially destroyed by water damage, is in the possession of the Missouri Historical Society of St. Louis. The postscript is published in *William Tecumseh Sherman: Gold Rush Banker* by Dwight L. Clarke, California Historical Society, San Francisco, 1969.

4. *Ibid.*, pg. 223.

5. *The Rivals*, pg. 195.

6. Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of California*, The History Company, San Francisco, 1890, Volume XXIV, pg. 259.

7. When Conness arrived in Washington in 1863 to take his seat in the U.S. Senate, he presented President Lincoln with a cane made from California live oak. The cane had been a gift from Broderick to Conness and had a gold plate on the handle inscribed, "Broderick to Conness." Conness added another plate saying "Conness to the President." He told the President that he was offering him the cane as a symbol of his admiration for the President's issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Conness became a close confidant and collaborator with Lincoln. His ardent support of the Union is reflected in the following statement:

I will not associate, nor shall I knowingly associate with men who are secessionists, disunionists or traitors, nor will I advise others to do so. Treason is as foul a crime as it was in the time of Benedict Arnold, any opposition to our present nationality is treasonable, pending a war, and ought to be punished by banishment from the State or incarceration in prison.

My opinions do not grown out of the influence of my neighbors, but are the result of my love of country and my estimate of its value. Upon the terms of Union I can have political association, and upon no other. I care not whether my associates come from one party or the other as long as they are true on one vital point. With me the Union is above all parties. I have but one desire, which is, that this government may be more firmly established in the fear and love of our people, that its prosperity may be continued, and that it may be securely transmitted to our posterity to the remotest ages.

(See *Reminiscences of Lincoln* by John Conness)

8. Elijah R. Kennedy, *The Contest for California in 1861*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1912, pp. 56-60. The author was present when Edward Baker gave his eulogy to David Broderick in San Francisco.



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9. The Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC), a front for the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, was founded in 1854 in Cincinnati as a secret society. It was the paramilitary organization that would become the Confederacy. The name is based on the purpose of the KGC, which was to establish a slave empire within a 1,200 mile radius, whose center was Cuba and included portions of North and South America. One person who clearly exemplified the treasonous nature of the KGC was General P.T. Beauregard, the brother-in-law of Louisiana's political boss John Slidell. Beauregard who was an early recruit to the KGC would later command the South Carolina troops that attacked Fort Sumter in 1861 and started the Civil War. The KGC claimed to have 65,000 armed and trained member in the South. For more on the KGC see Anton Chaitkin's *Treason in America*. For KGC activities in Southern California see John W. Robinson's *Los Angeles in Civil War Days 1860-65*, Dawson's Book Store, Los Angeles, 1977.

It should also be noted that one of John Slidell's top Louisiana conspirators was in California during 1860, Judah Philip Benjamin. Benjamin, a British subject, had come from Louisiana to nominally work on a legal case in San Francisco. He was there with Reverdy Johnson, the attorney who had represented the slaveholder in the Dred Scott case. Benjamin's primary reason for being in California was undoubtedly to plot operations with Gwin for the secession of the state. In November of 1860, he left San Francisco on the steamer Sonora with Senator Gwin. Senator Edward Baker of Oregon also happened to be aboard, on his way to Washington to begin his term of office. Judah Benjamin would first become Jefferson Davis' Attorney General for the CSA, then head of the War Department, and finally Secretary of State of the Confederacy.

10. One example, was the Humbolt Bay Massacres that occurred on February 26, 1860, when white settlers, without provocation, attacked four Indian villages, murdering 188.

11. For more on Floyd, Buchanan, and the insurrectionists, see Anton Chaitkin, *Treason in America*.

12. The conclusion of Downey's speech presented the alternative to the present crisis, with a vision of the future based on the establishment of a transcontinental railroad and international economic development through increased commerce with "China, and Japan, and the great Australian Empire, and the Spanish American Main . . . Let our inexhaustible supply of gold flow with it, there to build up cities, enrich a nation, and make us that powerful people that our position entitles us to be – the glory of the age, the wonder of the world, fulfilling the destiny awaiting us in riper years."

13. Bancroft, *History of California*, Vol. XXIV, pp. 279-280.

14. Stephen Field, like Downey, was a pro-Union Democrat. His brother Cyrus West Field, was a key organizer of the first trans-Atlantic cable. Upon coming to California, during the Gold Rush, David Broderick had saved his life during an altercation in a San Francisco saloon. He became a devoted supporter of Broderick from that time forward.

In 1850, Field had served as Marysville's alcade (the chief administrative position under the old Spanish system). Maryville is also the town where the insurrectionist, Charles R. Street, was editor of the local newspaper.

Field served one term in the state legislature. He was instrumental in defining the powers and jurisdiction of the courts and judicial officers of the state. He was elected to the state Supreme Court in 1857. When David Terry reigned his position, in order to murder Broderick, Stephen Field replaced him as Chief Justice on the court.

15. Stephen J. Field, *Personal Reminiscences of Early Days in California*, Da Capo Press, New York, 1893, p. 109.

In 1863, when Congress authorized the creation of a new circuit for the West Coast and an additional seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, Stephen Field was appointed by Lincoln to the new 10<sup>th</sup> seat on that court. Field was a pioneer in law regulating mining and property rights in the West, and had been recommended to the position by the loyal congressional delegations of both California and Oregon.

Field was also the cause for avenging the murder of his old friend David Broderick. After the war, and David Terry's return to California, Terry became maliciously embittered towards Field, who had been involved in a court ruling against him and his wife in a civil matter concerning a considerable sum of money. On August 14, 1889, Terry assaulted Field at a railway station in Lathrop, California and was shot dead by a marshal who was serving as Field's bodyguard.

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16. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, D.C., 1880-1901). Series I, Vol. L, Part 1, p. 462.

17. *Ibid*, p. 474. Captain Hancock was chief quartermaster of the southern district of California. He would later command the Second Corps of the Union Army of the Potomac. In 1880, Hancock became the Democratic Party's nominee for President, losing to James Garfield.

18. There were justifiable concerns in Washington that Mormon loyalty to the Union was tenuous at best. Connor established a permanent base overlooking Salt Lake City, called Camp Douglas (in honor of Senator Stephen Douglas), and mounted a cannon facing directly into the city. One of Connor's reports to General Wright in San Francisco stated that "it will be impossible for me to describe what I saw and heard in Salt Lake City, so as to make you realize the enormity of Mormonism; suffice it, that I found them a community of traitors, murderers, fanatics, and whores." [ *O.R.*, Series I, 50, Part 2, p. 119-120.] It was the Mormon strategy to establish a land route to Pacific Ocean from Salt Lake City. The town of San Bernardino, approximately thirty miles east of Los Angeles and situated at the southern base of the Cajon Pass, was settled by the Mormons as part of that strategy. During the Civil War, San Bernardino was one of the few places in California where Union troops had to be dispatched to suppress Confederate operations.

After the war, Connor returned to Salt Lake City, where, in addition to pursuing commercial interests in mining, he operated the first electric lighting company in the city.

19. Bancroft, *History of California*, Vol. XXIV, p. 284.

20. This quote by Grant is reproduced by Quinn in *Rivals*, pp. 294-296. The specific reference is most likely found in *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, as it is an official correspondence between Grant and one of his officers.

21. Patrick J. Dowling, *California, The Irish Dream*, Golden Gate Publishers, San Francisco, 1989. p. 109.

22. A complete history of this remarkable story was written by Konstantin George and is entitled *The U.S.-Russian Entente That Saved the Union*. It was first published in *Campaigner* magazine in July 1978. A shorter reverse appeared in *Executive Intelligence Review* on January 26, 1992 and *The New Federalist* newspaper on July 16, 2001.

23. Alexandre Tarsaidze, *Czars and Presidents*, McDowell, Obolensky Inc., New York, 1958, p. 222.

24. This deal brokered by Washington Baker Vanderlip, a geological engineer from Los Angeles, represented a consortium of California businessmen, such as, Edward Doheny, the Irish-American head of Mexican Petroleum, and Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times. It allowed for the leasing of the Kamchatka Peninsula by Russia to the consortium, for all the mineral and fishing rights (an area particularly rich in coal and oil deposits), and a Russian purchase order of \$3 billion for such goods as (only partial list):

5, 000 locomotives

2,000,000 tons rails and rail fixtures

1,000,000 agricultural machines

50 generators (from 2,000 to 10,000 kilowatts)

50,000 electric motors and dynamos

100 ocean-going steamers (10,000 tons and up)

10,000 airplanes

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2,500 railway passenger cars

2,000 river steamers, motorboats and launches

30,000 sets of telegraph and telephone apparatus

500 steam engines

500,000,000 tins condensed milk

500,000,000 tins meat and other conserves

270,000 tons cotton

350 narrow-gauge locomotives

The deal, which completely challenges the political, straight-jacket view of history as “left vs. right,” was sabotaged directly by the British oligarchy, which had a rug-chewing fit when the deal was announced, and the untimely death of President Warren Harding. The financial aristocracy had been blind-sided, and it is a lesson to be learned and applied today. On December 26, 1920, the Los Angeles Times published an editorial that captures the nature of the historic deal, and concluded:

“If Mr. Vanderlip has done nothing else he has called the attention of the world to the strategic position occupied by California in relation to future trade with Siberia and to the fact that there are brains enough and money enough in California to develop the resources of this new wonderland of the Pacific area. While it may be a shock to the moneybags of Threadneedle street and Wall Street, it is nevertheless a fact that their co-operation is not essential to such development.”

25. The Governor’s Annual Message to the California State Legislature, Sacramento, January 8, 1862.

26. The name originated from Fray Juan Crespi, who recorded standing near a small “beautiful river from the northwest’ located at “34 degrees 10 minutes.” He gave the river the name of Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de la Pornciúncula on August 2, 1769, which in the Franciscan calendar is when the feast of Perdono occurs in the famous tiny church at the base of Assisi in Italy. In approximately 1212, the Benedictines gave St. Francis of Assisi that small, ruined church for his use, and where he eventually died. This small piece of land called a ‘porziuncola’ in Italian (‘pornciúncula’ in Spanish), and its church became a center of pilgrimage and devotion. A fresco was painted on the wall behind the altar. It depicted the Virgin Mary surrounded by angels. That chapel took the name of ‘Saint Mary of the Angels at the Little Portion.’

It was the third Spanish governor of California, Felipe de Neve, who recommended to King Carlos III of Spain to establish a new pueblo along the Los Angeles River. On September 4, 1781, a band of forty-four people, including the Governor Neve and the padres, traveled from the San Gabriel Mission to the founding site of the Pueblo de Los Angeles. According to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, those founders were all Catholics and “predominately of African American origin.”

27. Kathleen O’Donnell Hunt, *Downey’s Destiny*, Libra House Ltd., Dublin, 1996, p. 98. Though this exact exchange may not be historically precise, the intent of Downey conviction is conveyed accurately.

28. Conversation recorded between Leland Stanford and his Attorney General during his Governorship, Frank Pixley, on August 22, 1882.

29. From autobiographic data from an interview submitted to Hubert Howe Bancroft, 1888.

Special thanks to Genevieve Troka of the California State Archives, and Barbara Callarman, Director of the Downey Historical Society, for their help in providing prime source materials on John G. Downey.

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I learned on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2012, that Mark Calney died in February, when I received a note for his wife, Maureen. Mark was a great admirer of Governor Downey and he would have written a wonderful biography had he lived.

### John Downey

California's first foreign born Governor, John Downey was born in Roscommon County, Ireland in June 24, 1827. Although a druggist by profession, he followed the Gold Rush to California and prospected in Grass Valley. Eventually he prospered in business in Southern California, where the town of Downey is named after him.

He served on the L.A. Common Council prior to his election to the State Assembly. As Lt. Governor, he succeeded Milton Latham as Governor. Downey's veto of the "bulkhead" bill (which would have allowed ownership of San Francisco's waterfront by a monopoly) made Downey a hero. The issue remained volatile, however, and once, on a visit to San Francisco, he called a man a "bulkheader" and fists began to fly. The fight was broken up when witnesses restrained Downey's opponent, crying, "you shan't strike the Governor!"

First Lady: Maria Guirado

Died March 1, 1894, Los Angeles, California.

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JOHN G. DOWNEY was born on June 24, 1827, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He was educated in the schools of Ireland, was a druggist by profession, and in 1849, he immigrated to California during the gold rush. Downey became a successful businessman with interests in real estate and cattle ranching. He prospered in Southern California, where the town of Downey is named after him. Downey entered politics in 1859 when he was elected lieutenant governor of California. Governor Milton S. Latham resigned from office on January 14, 1860, and Lieutenant Governor Downey assumed the governor's office. During his tenure, work began on the capitol building in Sacramento, the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California was formed, and the first pony express rider reached San Francisco. Governor Downey vetoed the "bulkhead bill," which would have allowed a monopoly ownership of San Francisco's waterfront, and the first telegraph line was connected linking the East and the West Coasts. The Civil War started during Downey's administration, and the legislature committed the state's support to the Union. Downey left office on January 10, 1862, and returned to his business interests in Los Angeles County. Governor John G. Downey died on March 1, 1894, and is buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California.

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### L.A. Then and Now

#### February 06, 2000|Cecilia Rasmussen

He was an Irish immigrant who saved Los Angeles, California and, just maybe, the country itself. Along the way, he found time to create three institutions that decisively shaped L.A.'s future: its first bank, mall and suburb.

Yet today John Gately Downey--a pharmacist-turned-governor-turned real estate mogul--is probably best remembered, if at all, for lending his name to a bedroom community southeast of downtown.

Born in Ireland in 1827, Downey immigrated just prior to the great potato famine, as a teenage stowaway on a cattle ship heading for America. In Maryland, Downey's knowledge of Latin helped win him an apprenticeship with a pharmacist.

In 1849, Downey abandoned his work as a pharmacist to try his luck in the California gold fields, where he arrived with a \$10 grubstake. But the only gold he ever touched was on the watch he brought with him. So, in 1850, he set out for Los Angeles, intent on resuming his former occupation.

That year Downey opened the tiny pueblo's first drugstore with his partner, James P. McFarland. The one-story adobe shack turned out to be the gold mine that previously had eluded Downey, who enhanced his fortune by allowing his credit customers to convert their drug debt into high-interest mortgages. He then foreclosed on those not able to meet his steep payment schedule.

"He liked the sound of coins falling on his counters better than a Mass," said one victim of his money lending.

After winning election to the City Council in 1852, Downey married 15-year-old Maria Guirado. It was a genuine love match, and he later built his bride the city's first two-story brick mansion with a private ballroom on Main Street, between 3rd and 4th streets.

In 1859, after a brief stint in the Legislature,

One year later, the 32-year-old immigrant was elected lieutenant governor as the second man on a pro-Southern, Democratic ticket. Within a few turbulent days, Downey was appointed the state's youngest governor after the elected chief executive, Milton S. Latham, resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate.

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DOWNEY- John Gately Downey was born in 1827 in Castlesampson, County Roscommon. He arrived here in 1849, with about \$10.00 to his name, which was not enough to pay his stage fare to the gold fields. In 1860, on the death of Governor Latham, he became the youngest Governor of California, a record that he still holds. (He and Latham's opponent was a young fellow named Leland Stanford.) While he was a Democrat, he supported Lincoln in his efforts to keep the Union intact. He also imposed financial controls that were designed to straighten out the state's treasury. In 1860, the State's deficit was more than \$4,000,000.00, by the time he left office there was a surplus. (We could sure use him today!)

During his tenure as Governor he was faced with several crisis, but one of the biggest was "The Bulkhead Act". This was a real gem of a piece of legislation. If approved, the act would have allowed developers to construct a seawall, with piers and docks,

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along the San Francisco waterfront, with the added right to collect dockage fees from incoming and outgoing ships. The real problem was that none of the funds would go to the city, they all went to the developers. He vetoed the bill.

Upon completion of his term of office, Downey returned to Southern California, to his Santa Gertrudes Rancho. Downey pioneered the modern subdivision by offering all 20,000 acres of the property for sale at very reasonable prices. When he sold all of the property he headed to the sleepy pueblo of Los Angeles and established the first bank, Hayward & Co. Later he and Hayward formed The Farmers and Merchants Bank. He believed that someday the area would prosper, and in an effort to drive that prosperity, he built several buildings and the first local railroad.

If that was not enough, in 1875, he decided to try another subdivision. He had built the largest banks in that part of the state, and offered the land at very attractive prices. He was sure that oranges would grow well in the warm climate, so he imported several varieties, and so launched one of the states largest cash crops. The City of Downey, in Southern California proudly bears his name.

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### JOHN G. DOWNEY

Wherever men go forth to build cities and states, wherever they achieve greatness and honor in the vast empire of human industry there is the necessity of leadership. Particularly is this true of the Golden West and of all states where the early struggles of the pathfinders were more or less hindered by lax morals and chaotic social conditions.

California is a pre-eminent example of the righting of social delinquencies after an era of disorder such as caused the organizing of vigilance committees and the administration of justice by the rough processes of mining camps and public-square meetings. But California was peculiarly fortunate during her troublous eras, for she seemed to produce sturdy men of action and honor who grasped the situation with firmness and directed the affairs of state with wisdom. Not only did such men as the immortal Thomas Starr King thunder the lessons of right living from the pulpit, not only did such editors as James King of William rouse the people to action by the power of pen and type, but men like Governor Downey held back the cohorts of corruption by giving the people strong and honest administrations in the hour of need.

The particular charm that dwells in the story of Governor John G. Downey's life is the fact that he came to America a young Irish lad, descended from scholarly ancestors, carved his fortune from the opportunities at hand, crossed the isthmus in the days of the Argonauts and helped to the utmost of his superb abilities to build California into a great state. Beginning his career as a young man amid the excitement and temptations of speculation, he ever preserved that coolness of judgment and those Christian virtues that make his name revered by the younger generation, for he was beloved of the people, who knew his worth and have preserved the story of his life.

John G. Downey, the seventh governor of California, was born in Castle Sampson, county Roscommon, Ireland, on June 24, 1827. His parents were Dennis and Bridget Downey, whose ancestors were distinguished leaders of their fellows not only in the higher fields of human endeavor, but on the field of contest as well. The early youth of the man that afterward had an important part to play far from the scenes of his birth lay amid the inspiring natural scenery immortalized by the masters. The fields and brooks where the lad played were the same made famous in song and story by Burns, Moore and Goldsmith, and by such orators as the illustrious Henry Grattan. He started in life amid influences that stirred patriotism and chivalry.

In the national schools of his native land he got a fair rudimentary education, and what was probably or more importance in the end he learned to work with his hands, familiarizing himself with agriculture and the industries common to his people. At the age of fourteen he came to America, whither the other members of his family had preceded him. In Charles county, Maryland, he studied Latin under John Corcoran, an illustrious teacher. The lad applied himself with marked industry and made great progress in his work, learning, also, the habit of application under the tutelage and example of the eminent instructor. At the age of sixteen years young Downey was forced to abandon his school and go forth to battle for his livelihood. This was a grave disappointment to his family, who had hoped he would finish his studies and become a priest, as many of his family had taken up that calling. It is doubtful, however, whether so robust and ambitious a nature, endowed with rare gifts of business management and the genius of organizing and directing men, would ever have been satisfied with the more circumscribed lines of the priesthood. After leaving school the young man soon found employment at the nation's capital, where he studies pharmacy with John F. Callan, one of the greatest apothecaries of Washington. Young Downey remained with Callan until 1846. He next went to Cincinnati, where he soon became the partner in the drug business of John Darling, a Scotchman and a leading apothecary of Ohio's metropolis. He was not destined to remain long in the older settlements, however, for his adventurous spirit longed to seek new fields of large opportunities. When the lure of gold led men to follow the star of empire in its westward course Downey was one of the sturdy group that made the tour to better his fortunes. Unlike many others, whose ambition was to make quick fortunes in the mines, Downey made the trip with a view to making his money from the soil and the people. He had faith that California was destined to be a stable commonwealth, and his knowledge of agricultural values stood him in hand when he reached the west. He was in no particular hurry to reach his destination, so he stopped for a time in Vicksburg, where he was connected in business with Oliver Woodman, a gentleman of culture and business attainments.

Fortunately for the young man all his associates in business and in life had been men of good character and attainments. Every influence that surrounded him was uplifting and helpful. This fact, together with his innate desire for square dealing, developed his character along strong lines, so that when he came into the excitement and turmoil of the Golden West where many men fell, temptation did not lure him from the path of rectitude.

Leaving Vicksburg he crossed the isthmus, remaining at Havana and New Orleans for some time before he ventured farther. In

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1849 he landed in California with ten dollars. He was not idle long, for he knew the drug business thoroughly and was hired at once by Henry Johnson & Company, who were on Dupont street, San Francisco. Observing an opportunity to better himself, by a stroke of good luck he made the purchase of a stock of drugs at about twenty per cent below cost, and took his purchase to Los Angeles, going by schooner and consuming three weeks in the voyage. At Los Angeles he went into partnership with Dr. McFarland, of Tennessee, was successful, and at the end of three years young Downey found himself worth about thirty thousand dollars. From that time forward his fortunes prospered. In 1856 Downey was elected to the legislature, having endeared himself to the people of his vicinity by his ambition, his patriotism and honesty. He had already served as councilman, superintendent of lighthouses, and later as distributing agent of the United States treasury. So well did his political fortunes prosper that in 1859 he was nominated for lieutenant governor by the Democrats, and was elected by a handsome majority. Soon after this election Governor Latham resigned to become a United States senator. This left Downey at the helm as governor of the state. His record was brilliant in the trying era of the Civil war. As commander-in-chief of the forces of the state he did much, in conjunction with public-spirited citizens in private life, to keep California in the column of states that were for the Union. He was instrumental in raising a regiment from California and Arizona, and that regiment went forth and fought gallantly for the Union. It was the inflexible honesty of Governor Downey that prevented a band of corruptionists from looting the treasury and stealing from San Francisco her water front. He promptly vetoed the "Bulkhead" bill that would have plundered the commerce of the port, routing every sign of corruption wherever he got a chance to deal it a killing blow. So delighted were the people that the supervisors of San Francisco adopted resolutions of confidence and respect, paying a high tribute to the honesty and ability of their governor. Prominent citizens and leading merchants presented the governor with resolutions that praised him in the highest terms for his unswerving fidelity to duty in the hour of trial. When the governor arrived in San Francisco soon after his famous veto the entire population was at the ferry to meet and salute him. When he arrived the cheering was thunderous. His carriage awaited him, but the crowd unhitched the horses and drew the carriage in triumph through the streets of the city. Never in the history of California has there since been, nor had there been before, so tumultuous a tribute to manly worth and fidelity to duty. After his term had expired Governor Downey retired full of honor to his home in Los Angeles, where he was loved and respected during his remaining days and where his memory is revered to-day. He died March 1, 1894, in Los Angeles. In 1869 he built the Downey Block, one of the great buildings in Los Angeles. He had meantime started the first bank in Los Angeles and had established a large ranch, with Downey City, named in his honor, as its market place. In those early times there were few small tracts of land. Governor Downey was the first to set the example of cutting up large tracts into small farms for the men of small means. Anaheim colony was the fruit of his plans.

Governor Downey married the daughter of Don Rafael Guirado, a Spanish gentleman of Sonora. She was killed in the Tehachapi disaster in 1883. Some years later he was married to Miss Rosa V. Kelly, a well-known Los Angeles lady. In his domestic and social relations, as well as in his public life, he was ever a kind Christian gentleman

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John Downey was born in Ireland, in 1827. He emigrated to the United States in 1842 and after settling in Ohio, found work in a drug store.

In 1848 gold was discovered on land owned by John Sutter in California. Downey joined the Gold Rush and later claimed that he only had \$10 dollars when he arrived in California. After a short unsuccessful period as a miner, Downey moved to Los Angeles and with financial help provided by J. P. McFarland, opened his own drug store. This was a success and Downey was able to buy a large ranch.

Downey became active in the Democratic Party and in 1861 became governor of California. During the Civil War Downey helped raised troops for the Union Army.

After the war Downey became involved in real estate and in 1871 joined with I. W. Hellman to establish the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Two years later his company, the Downey Land Association, began building houses in East Los Angeles. He was also one of the founders of the Pioneer Oil Company and was the main figure behind the building of the Los Angeles Public Library.

On 29th January, 1883, Downey and his wife were on a train that crashed in the Techachapi Mountains. Downey's wife was killed and he suffered from nervous shock until his death in Los Angeles.

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### 1. Holabird Americana Auction #23 Archive

California. Los Angeles. Los Angeles. Farmers & Merchants Bank of Los Angeles, 1874. Certificate of Deposit #491. Receipt for Thos. Farley, November, 28, 1874. Signed by John G. Downey, president. Vignette at upper right of young woman seated. Blue rubber stamp cancellation at lower right, near Downey signature. Printed at top: John G. Downey, president I. W. Hellman, cashier". Printer - Britton & Rey, SF. Dark water stain, glue stain, at left edge where documentary stamp may have been. 3.5 x 8.5". The Farmers and Merchants Bank was the first incorporated bank in Los Angeles, founded in 1871 by John G. Downey and Isaias W. Hellman, a successful merchant, real estate speculator and banker, and brother of Hermann W. Hellman. The Farmers and Merchants Bank was the oldest bank in Southern California from 1871 until 1956 when it was merged into the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles. The story of the Farmers and Merchants Bank coincides with the development of Los Angeles,

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particularly in the formative period from 1870 to 1900.

John G. Downey, California's seventh governor and only foreign-born governor, was born on June 24, 1827, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He was educated in the schools of Ireland, was a druggist by profession, and in 1849, he immigrated to California during the gold rush craze. Downey became a successful businessman with interests in real estate and cattle ranching. He prospered in Southern California, where the town of Downey is named after him.

Downey entered politics in 1859 when he was elected lieutenant governor of California. Governor Milton S. Latham resigned from office on January 14, 1860, and Lieutenant Governor Downey assumed the governor's office. During his tenure, work began on the capitol building in Sacramento, the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California was formed, and the first pony express rider reached San Francisco. Governor Downey vetoed the "bulkhead bill," which would have allowed a monopoly ownership of San Francisco's waterfront, and the first telegraph line was connected linking the East and the West Coasts. The Civil War started during Downey's administration, and the legislature committed the state's support to the Union. Downey left office on January 10, 1862, and returned to his business interests in Los Angeles County. Governor John G. Downey died on March 1, 1894, and is buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California.

In 1871, with I. W. Hellman, Downey established the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Because plans had been completed to bring the Southern Pacific Railroad to Los Angeles, with branch lines out of the city, he foresaw the importance of communities along these railways. On his own ranch, he laid out a town and named the community Downey. The first home was erected there 1873. Two years later, Downey had many homes, a hotel, two churches, a school, and a newspaper.

In 1874, he started East Los Angeles, using in his publicity such slogans as "Splendid Home sites for All." Among his many other accomplishments were the attracting of many immigrants to the region, bringing in the first artesian well in the district on some land near Compton, and being one of the founders of the Pioneer Oil Company.

He also helped organize the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce (then called the Board of Trade), the second horse car line in the community, and the Los Angeles Public Library.

Downey's life was saddened by a terrible railroad accident that occurred January 29, 1883. He and his wife were on a southbound train that had stopped at Techachapi Station, near the summit of the Techachapi Mountains. The locomotive was detached and was taking on water when suddenly the train began to move down the slope, gained momentum, and at great speed plunged into a ravine below. The old-fashioned stoves and lamps set fire to the cars. More than 20 people died, and others were crushed and burned. Among those who lost their lives was Mrs. Downey. For years Downey suffered from nervous shock. He died in his home in Los Angeles about 10 years later. (bk). Very fine. Est. \$200-400

John G. Downey (1826-1894) exemplified these early boosters. Born in Ireland, he came to California during the Gold Rush but made his fortune operating a drugstore in Los Angeles. In 1858 Downey was elected lieutenant governor of the state and, in 1860, when Milton S. Latham vacated the governorship to take a U.S. Senate seat (after only five days in office!), Downey became governor-at age 32 the youngest in the state's history. He started the town of Downey, subdivided Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs, prospered from his ranching and real estate interests, and was one of the founders of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, an important Los Angeles institution. With all these accomplishments, Downey has yet to be the subject of a full-scale biography.

Downey can be joined by a veritable roll call of businessmen who did their best to transform Los Angeles from a violent frontier town to an economic and urban center in southern California. Physicians Walter Lindley (1852-?) and Joseph P. Widney (1841-1938); Judge Benjamin Hayes (1815-1877); bankers William Workman (1798-1876) and Francis P.F. Temple (1826-1880); real estate developers Andrew Boyle (d. 1871) and Robert Widney (1838-1929), brother of Joseph; and manufacturer Charles Ducommun (1820-1876) all saw a future for Los Angeles at a time when the city's population as of 1870 was only 5,700-and at a time when Los Angeles had a hundred saloons, providing the interesting statistic of one saloon for every 57 men, women, and children in the city. The story of how these men helped transform Los Angeles is found mainly in three books that contain biographical information: Remi Nadeau, *City-Makers: The Men Who Transformed Los Angeles from Village to Metropolis* (1948); Marco R. Newmark, *Jottings in Southern California History* (1955); and Ronald Woolsey, *Migrants West: Toward the Southern California Frontier* (1996). Nevertheless, there would seem to be enough resource materials in local archives to reconstruct their life stories

Vineyard Company, consisting of John G. Downey, Ben. Dreyfus, of Anaheim, and Messrs. I. W. and I. M. Hellman, six hundred and eight acres; the remainder is the homestead of the family of the original proprietor. I understand that it is the intention of the San Francisco company to subdivide their portion and offer it for sale at some future period. The vineyard has for some years past been under the management of Mr. Sainsevain, and the wine has attained a very favorable reputation. Under the new regime, which will be under the entire supervision of Mr. Dreyfus, the latest

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improvements in the manufacture of wine and brandy will be introduced, and the well-known reputation of "Cucamonga" will doubtless be materially enhanced. The price paid for the vineyard property was, I am informed, about \$35,000. In my somewhat extensive tour through this region, I have nowhere seen a vineyard which presented a finer appearance than Cucamonga. The foliage of the vines was just sufficiently advanced in growth to present an even surface of delicate green over the whole extensive area. Not a weed disfigured the ground, which careful cultivation had rendered almost as smooth and level as a ball-room floor. That the new proprietors intend to make their valuable estate one of the finest properties in California, must be evident from the fact that they last year planted 40,000 foreign grape vines. There are 160,000 bearing vines on the place at present. They also planted 1,200 orange, lemon and lime trees, and 3,000 English walnuts, and will continue to add others from time to time, they having extensive nurseries of young trees upon the property. In point of natural beauty of location, Cucamonga can successfully dispute the palm with any estate I have visited. The finest mountain stream I have seen rushes down from the adjacent hills. The supply of water is ample for manufacturing purposes, and the fall from the road-front of the estate is sixty feet in one thousand. Mr. Sansevain, the former proprietor, retires from business with a stock of about 30,000 gallons of wine on hand. My stay at this point was brief, and my opportunities for observation limited, but I saw enough to convince me that the stories which I had heard of the beauty and fertility of the Cucamonga ranch, were by no means exaggerated.

Seventeen miles from Cucamonga is the delightful city of San <PAGEINFO><CONTROLPGNO>196</CONTROLPGNO>

Gov. Downey owned 17,000 acres of choice agricultural lands upon the San Gabriel river. In accordance with plans long fostered, these lands were put into market in parcels, at easy rates, either for cash or long payments. These were the first lands put in the market in this way in Los Angeles county. The ex-Governor has a magnificent young orange grove right in the heart of the city. He says:

"The cultivation of the orange in California has deservedly attracted much attention, not only as a source of profit, but as an adjunct to the beauty of the garden, the farm, and the vineyard. There is nothing that excites the interest of the refined and cultivated woman--maiden or housewife--like the orange grove; ever green; always in fruit or in blossom; symmetrical in shape, and commanding in size and appearance; filling the air with delicious perfume; feasting the eye with its beautiful contrast of deep green leaf, snow-white blossom, and beautiful golden fruit."

Lest our people should be deterred from extending the cultivation of the orange by the many estimates made of the cost attending the planting and care of an acre, I have been induced to give my views on this interesting question, but not because I am dissatisfied with what has been said by others. On the contrary, I am pleased that Mr. Evans has entered into details on the subject, and through his article in the Overland many an intelligent mind will be induced to investigate this interest. But facts of history in relation to the orange orchards of this State should not be overlooked; and as Mr. Evans has been misinformed on some points, it will be only just to correct his errors.

"There never existed an idea that the orange would not grow beyond the spots selected by the Franciscan fathers; but in those days, though there was plenty of energy and intelligence among the Spanish pioneers, it was a difficult undertaking for the rancho to build a fence to protect his orchard from the multitude of wild stock that surrounded him, even to the door of his pueblo home. The fathers had thousands of neophytes at their command, and to conceive an undertaking was simply to have it done, and quickly. As an evidence John Downey on Oranges

### **Donahue Family information.**

**Donahue, James;** brother of Peter Donahue; pioneer of April 24, 1849; died at his country residence\* near Santa Clara, Aug. 17, 1862. \*Site of Agnew State hospital

**Donahue, Jas. Mervyn;** son of Peter Donahue, and son-in-law of Hon. Wm. T. Wallace, was President of the S. F. & North Pacific Coast R. R., 1887, to March 3, 1890, when he died at San Francisco., the place of his birth, aged 30 years and 10 months.

**Donahue, Peter;** a pioneer of June, 1849; President of the Pioneers, 1872-73; of Donahue, Booth & Co., foundry men, 1863-65; President Omnibus Street R. R. Co., 1865-67; President S. F. & North Pacific Coast R. R. Co., 1870-71; President S. F. Gas Co., 1871-73; President of Gas Co., Omnibus Street R. R. Co., and State Investment Insurance Co., 1875; of two last named companies down to 1880; same and also of Sonoma Valley R. R. Co., 1881-83; presented St. Patrick's Catholic Church with a chime of bells, March 12, 1870; was born in Glasgow, Scotland, of Irish parents, Jan. 11, 1822; died at S. F., Nov. 26, 1885; left an estate appraised at \$3,798,312.

**Donahue, Mrs. Annie;** widow of Peter Donahue, and sister of the late ex-Gov. John G. Downey, died Dec. 12, 1896; a native of Castlesampson County Roscommon of Ireland, aged 60; funeral from St. Mary's Cathedral. Mrs. D. left a vast estate. See Supplement.



# Taughmaconnell-born US Governor honoured in California

Deirdre Verney

SOME 116 years after his death, Taughmaconnell's most famous son, Governor John Gately Downey, has been honoured in the US city that bears his name.

Hot on the heels of the launch of a monument in his birthplace back in October, Downey City in California, home to over 100,000 people, has followed suit unveiling a bronze bust dedicated to their founding father, the first foreign-born Governor of the state yesterday (Tuesday).

The statue, which sits in front of Downey City Hall, honours the legacy of the Roscommon man who was the Governor of California from 1860 to 1862 at the tender age of 32. The sculpture was produced using the same mould as the one created by Mayo-

the unveiling by US Ambassador Dan Rooney and his wife Patricia in Taughmaconnell village in mid-October. Funds for the US sculpture came from the city's Art in Public Places fund.

Born in the townland of Castlesampson back in 1827, Downey left Ireland at the age of 14 for the United States where he made his new life with his family in LA.

Within two decades, he rose through the ranks of business, local and state government to become the first foreign-born Governor of the third largest state in America and most populous from 1860 to 1862.

In a remarkable life, he was also a successful businessman, cattle rancher and one of the chief founders of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and the University of Southern California.

Interestingly, the cur-

Schwarzenegger is only the second foreign Governor of the state and in a tribute back in October, he said John G Downey from Co Roscommon had "opened up opportunities for immigrants in our Golden State" but had always, despite his remarkable achievements in business and politics "remained proud of his home and his roots".

Speaking to the Westmeath Independent this week, Micheal Moore, Chairperson of Taughmaconnell Heritage and Historical Society, who spearheaded the local campaign for a monument in the village, said the group was delighted that Governor Downey was receiving further recognition in his adopted home.

"It's nice only months after our own event," he pointed out. "It's another compliment for Castlesampson and Taughmaconnell.

at the unveiling by Gene O'Sullivan from Kiltoom who has been out there for many years."

In correspondence with the group, Mario A. Guerra, a member of the council in the City of Downey, said that one of his initiatives as Mayor last year was to enhance public art in the city, and on foot of the Taughmaconnell unveiling, he asked staff to look into the possibility of getting a similar monument.

"I thought it would be great to have the only two statues of John Downey in his birthplace and the other in the city named after him... We are proud of our legacy here in Downey."

The City of Downey was named in the Roscommon man's honour in 1873.

He died on March 1 1894 and is buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, Califor-

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# THE WESTMEATH INDEPENDENT

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## Taughmaconnell monument to remember Californian governor

October 2010

1842, Roscommon, a young man leaves a small town in Roscommon to seek a better life, like so many did, in America.

The young John Gately Downey could not have known then what life would have in store for him, that he would become Governor of California, or that 167 years after his departure from Ireland and more than a century after his death, a monument would be erected in his honour, in his home town of Taughmaconnell.

Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran this week confirmed that funding has been secured for the erection of a monument to Governor John Gately Downey in Taughmaconnell, County Roscommon. Minister Finneran said that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government had committed to providing half the funding required for the monument which would cost some €11,000, the rest of the money has been provided by the Taughmaconnell Historical Society, with the assistance of Roscommon County Council.

'I'm delighted to confirm that my Department will be able to provide this funding to allow the erection of this important monument to one of Roscommon's greatest sons, Mr. John Gately Downey, former Governor of California'. Minister Finneran was accompanied by local County Councillor, Trevor Finneran MCC and Chairman of Taughmaconnell Historical Society, and local resident, Mr. Michéal Moore.

Minister Finneran said: 'The City of Downey, California is named in John G. Downey's honor, and a monument has been erected in Governor Downey's honour there for some time, it's only right that he should now be honoured in his birth place'.

John Gately Downey, (1827-1894), was born in Roscommon but moved to Maryland, America as a 14-year-old, however it was when he followed the goldrush to California that he really made his name and eventually became the first foreign born Governor of California in 1860. It's interesting to note that the current Governor Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger is only the second foreign Governor of the state.