

A. H. PICKERING,  
Dealer in California Lands.

EXCHANGES MADE.

Room 702, 157 Dearborn St.

REMOVED TO SUITE 31, 121 LA SALLE STREET.

Chicago, ..... 1890

1

The idea of forming a Friend's Colony, <sup>in California</sup> was in one way impressed upon our minds and hearts by observing the needs as well as the opportunities for educational and Gospel work, as we travelled from place to place during a <sup>first</sup> recent visit. There seemed an open field which Friends might occupy and in so doing, ought to exert a great influence for good. Many localities were without schools and churches, or so remote that attendance was difficult. The Sabbath was poorly observed, and on every hand intemperance was spreading so rapidly that it was fast becoming the common foe of the state. The need of moral, and Christian influence was everywhere apparent.

With such reflections as these in our minds and with the thought that a strong community of Friends would doubtless assist in bringing about much needed reforms, it is not surprising that slowly

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Chicago,

189

2

(sealed)

but surely the Holy Spirit settled these convictions on our hearts. When we decided to act in obedience to what to us was evidently Divine leading, we received the reward of settled peace and joy. A new hope and faith sprang up in our hearts that there would <sup>yet</sup> be a flourishing Friends Church on the Pacific Coast. We spoke of this to some of <sup>our</sup> friends & relatives. An announcement was made through our church paper. An interest was soon aroused. Through out most of the year 1886 we were in receipt of many letters from different states making inquiries about the proposed colony. These questions were usually in regard to climate, productions, education, supply of water & cetera.

At the request of several families, we were requested to return to Calif. and make such a selection of a location as we might think best. Early in 1887 we travelled over a large portion of the state. We passed beyond the

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Chicago,

189

3  
Sacramento to north and as far South  
as San Diego and from there to Colima, in  
Lower Calif. Many of the older towns & colonies  
were visited and while these were attractive yet  
the high prices of land and other difficulties encountered  
left us almost without hope of success. Toward  
the close of our search during a period of three  
months we found ourselves in Los Angeles. And  
One more attempt was made to please in  
location and price. We were driven to the  
ranch <sup>on</sup> where the present site of Whittier now  
is, and hope began to revive. A second visit  
was ~~paid~~ made with still more interest.  
From the first we were favorably impressed  
with this beautiful situation. The high ground  
sloping away from the Puente hills <sup>from which</sup> ~~we~~  
we could see the whole valley reaching toward  
the south and west until ~~until~~ our eyes rested  
upon the ocean, some eighteen miles away.  
So pleased were we that a council of friends  
~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> called and a free interchange of

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189

4

views expressed. It is due to but justice to  
~~the members of our church~~  
~~the members~~ then resident in Calf to acknowledge  
the many courtesies received from them & to  
<sup>now</sup> express our gratitude for the interest shown  
in the enterprise. We believe that not only  
ourselves but other friends entered into  
the prospect of establishing a colony, with much  
prayer, seeking to know the mind of the  
Master as to locality and with a fervent  
desire that our Heavenly Father's blessing  
should rest with the undertaking.

The first meeting held in the interests of the Colony  
took place ~~on~~ day of ~~the~~ month ~~of~~ 1887 in the  
old barn belonging to the ranch. A. H. Pickering  
declined to serve as President of the company  
owing to advanced age, together with his  
business interests at home. Accordingly  
Jonathan Bailey received the appointment  
Bervey Lindley acting as sec. It was at this  
meeting that Mrs. Elizabeth Grinnell proposed  
that the Colony be named Whittier in honor  
of J. G. Whittier, the poet. This was ~~then~~ agreed upon.

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The original design was to lay out the land in lots containing not less than two, nor more than ten acres. The thought of outside persons buying up the land, or of the company entering into a speculative disposal of the same, was entirely foreign to the feelings of those who had already spent time and money freely, to secure to others the economical privileges of the colony. However the managers later on, yielded to the pressure of the boom, which was at its height. He left all details in the hands of others and returned home. The second day of the following October two car-loads of friends, among whom were two ministers, left Chicago for Whittier to find streets laid out, some small houses built, others being built, friends camping in tents and much activity shown in getting settled. For a short time friends held their meetings in the house of Jonathan Bailey. It was not long, however, until the Company built a <sup>house of worship</sup> church, seating three or four hundred.

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Chicago, ..... 189

6

and presented it to the people church

It was most interesting to note the arrival of the Friends from different States, the cheerful manner in which many entered upon what for the time, might be called pioneer life, the discomforts forgotten in the hope of finally being comfortable, the willingness with which ~~each~~ all looked upon ~~one~~ ~~another~~ as brethren, the resolution to bear bravely the home ties which were necessarily broken in going to the Pacific <sup>coast</sup>. ~~The equipping of the Church with her various commitments.~~ It was our lot to remain a year and a half with those for whom we had so often prayed, even before we had seen them. We bore daily in our hearts the most earnest desire that the Master's blessing might rest upon the labors of Friends at Whittier. We believe now as we did in the beginning, that we were used of the Lord in establishing a Church where she is much needed.

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Room 205, 157 Jackson St.

A. H. Pickering

Story of Locating  
Whittier

1887

960  
now

Please let me know  
if any thing is  
wanted.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*