
Sutro Heights, San Francisco, California, photographed by I. W. Taber, 1886

BANC PIC 1983.117--ALB

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July 1995

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Sutro Heights, San Francisco, California, photographed by I. W. Taber,

Date: 1886

Collection Number: BANC PIC 1983.117--ALB

Extent: 1 album (52 photographic prints); albumen ; 21 x 13 cm. 52 digital objects

Photographer: Isaiah West Taber

Repository: The Bancroft Library. University of California, Berkeley.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Languages Represented: English

Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item] *Sutro Heights, San Francisco, California, photographed by I. W. Taber, 1886*, BANC PIC 1983.117--ALB, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Digital Representations Available

[Digital representations of selected original pictorial materials are available in the list of materials below.](#) Digital image files were prepared from selected Library originals by the Library Photographic Service. Library originals were copied onto 35mm color transparency film; the film was scanned and transferred to Kodak Photo CD (by Custom Process); and the Photo CD files were color-corrected and saved in JFIF (JPEG) format for use as viewing files.

Related Collections

Sutro, Adolph.

Title: Adolph Sutro Papers, 1853-1915.

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS C-B 465

Sutro, Adolph.

Title: Adolph Sutro Papers, 1874-1892 (bulk 1888-1892).

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 91/195 c

Isaiah West Taber

Isaiah West Taber was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts August 17, 1830. Taber went to sea at the age of fifteen and spent several years working on whaling ships in the North Pacific. He came to California in 1850, where he spent four years working first as a miner, then a farmer. Taber returned to New Bedford in 1854 where he studied dentistry and began a dental practice. An interest in amateur photography eventually became his life-work. He settled in Syracuse, New York, where he opened his first studio. In 1864 he returned to California at the inducement of the photographers Bradley and Rulofson, whom he worked for until 1871. Taber established the "Taber Gallery" at No. 12 Montgomery Street in 1871. His highly successful business was well-known for portraiture and a vast stock of California and Western views -many of which were the unacknowledged works of other photographers. Taber's success and stature in California and abroad are evident in his being awarded the photographic concession of the Midwinter Fair of 1893-94 in San Francisco, his being sent to London in 1897 to photograph the pageant of the Queen Victoria Jubilee, and his commission to photograph King Edward VII. Taber's career ended in 1906 when his entire collection of glass plates, view negatives and portraits on glass were destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire. He died February 22, 1912.

(Sources: Hart, James D. *A Companion to California*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978, p.439; Murray, W. H. *The Builders of a Great City: San Francisco's Representative Men*. San Francisco: The Journal, 1891, p.329-330; and Burdette, Robert J. *American Biography and Genealogy*. California edition. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., [191-]), p. 756-761.)

Adolph Sutro

Adolph Sutro was born in 1830 in Prussia. He moved to San Francisco from Baltimore in 1851 and ran a tobacco store before going to Nevada, attracted by mining prospects. After making some money in mining, he built a tunnel under the Comstock Lode to allow better access to the mines and improve ventilation and drainage. The tunnel made a fortune for Sutro, and after selling it in 1879 he moved to San Francisco once again to invest in real estate, eventually owning one-twelfth of the city's property. He acquired 1,000 acres of land, known as Sutro Heights, on a spot facing the ocean beyond the Golden Gate. The acres housed his own mansion, the Cliff House restaurant, and the Sutro Baths (salt water swimming pools). Sutro was a Populist mayor of San Francisco from 1894-1896. Upon his death in 1898 Sutro Heights was willed to the city of San Francisco.

(Source: Hart, James D. *A Companion to California*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978, pp. 434-5.)

Scope and Content

This collection consists of an album of 52 photographs of Sutro Heights, Adolph Sutro's estate above the Cliff House in San Francisco. The photographs were taken in 1886 by Isaiah West Taber. Included are images of the statuary and gardens at Sutro Heights, exterior and interior views of the Sutro residence, outdoor scenes, dwellings, rock walls, groves, vases, and one group portrait of employees seated on the lawn.

The inside front cover of the album contains a portrait of Adolph Sutro. Next to the portrait is a note which reads, "Few copies made up for family and friends." The first three pages of the album contain a poem by Madge Morris entitled, "Sutro Heights: A Legend."

Typewritten captions found on the bottom of the photographs are reprinted in the container listing. Each caption is followed by "Taber Photo., San Francisco," but this note is not reprinted in the container listing since it is found after each photograph.

- :1 **Adolph Sutro**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0w1005sp>

- :2 **No. 81 - Main Gate. Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf558007xp>

- :3 **No. 14 - Lion at Main Gate by Geefs. Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0v19n9gv>

- :4 **No. 23 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Vase near lower Gate.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4v19p1h6>

- :5 **No. 4 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, View on Main Drive.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0z09n8d0>

- :6 **No. 7 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, View on Main Avenue.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5j49p15c>

- :7 **No. 39 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf767nb6tk>

- :8 **No. 29 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Ships entering the Golden Gate.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf8p30103j>

- :9 **No. 28 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Old Grove.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1m3nb21h>

- :10 **No. 75 - Old Grove - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf3m3nb455>

- :11 **No. 76 - Palms Grove - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0r29n84j>

- :12 **No. 77 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Old Grove.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6p3008p4>

- :13 **No. 78 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Old Grove.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf8z09p4cg>

- :14 **No. 62 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Dwelling and Observatory.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0w1005t6>

- :15 **No. 71 - Parapet - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0t1nb2b5>

- :16 **No. 44 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Parapet, Cliff House and Pacific Ocean.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6n39p2v5>

- :17 **No. 36 - Rock wall and Parapet - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6t1nb5wr>

- :18 **No. 17 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Stairway Carved in Rock.**  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9q5011gg>

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- :19 No. 40 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Cliff House and Seal Rocks. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf529007g9>
- :20 No. 55 - Spring. (Parapet.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6x0nb6f5>
- :21 No. 54 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Rock wall and Parapet. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1b69n957>
- :22 No. 53 - Rocky Point below Lower Terrace - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf909nb7m8>
- :23 No. 46 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Dwelling.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6779p2sh>
- :24 No. 94 - Drawing Room - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6x0nb6gp>
- :25 No. 95 - Drawing Room - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1b69n96r>
- :26 No. 47 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Conservatory.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6c6008hk>
- :27 No. 70 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Conservatory.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5h4nb4z1>
- :28 No. 58 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Interior of Conservatory. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1t1nb319>
- :29 No. 56 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Camellia House.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5d5nb4qr>
- :30 No. 51 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, The Satyr's Dream. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf538nb4p8>
- :31 No. 79 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Group of Boys.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0b69n880>
- :32 No. 2 - Parapet, Cliff House and Seal Rocks - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf558007z6>
- :33 No. 3 - The Surprise. (Canova.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9n39p488>
- :34 No. 6 - Demosthenes. (Antique.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4c6007r3>
- :35 No. 8 - Antinous. (Antique.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf8f59p46m>
- :36 No. 9 - Diana. (Antique.) Versailles. - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7c6009kd>
- :37 No. 10 - Birds Nesting - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6290097z>
- :38 No. 15 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Pecheuse au filet et l'Autumne. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4b69p0gx>
- :39 No. 18 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, View Looking North. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5m3nb50p>
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- :40 No. 19 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Vase near old Lodge. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf400007p0>
- :41 No. 22 - Children Supporting Vase - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6j49p37p>
- :42 No. 26 - Danseuse. (Canova.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf829010jb>
- :43 No. 30 - Mercury. (Antique.) Florence. - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf929010zv>
- :44 No. 32 - Venus. (Canova.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1w100613>
- :45 No. 33 - Winter. - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf167nb1t9>
- :46 No. 34 - Gryphon - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6p3008qn>
- :47 No. 50 - Hebe. - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf3z09p119>
- :48 No. 57 - Venus of Milo. (Antique.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7290094q>
- :49 No. 60 - Danseuse. (Canova.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf72900957>
- :50 No. 64 - Venus Coming Out of Bath. (Canova.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf838nb7bg>
- :51 No. 65 - Venus Genetrix. (Antique.) - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4p30083q>
- :52 No. 21 - Sutro Heights, San Francisco, Cal., 1886, Employees. 
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf296nb2n5>