

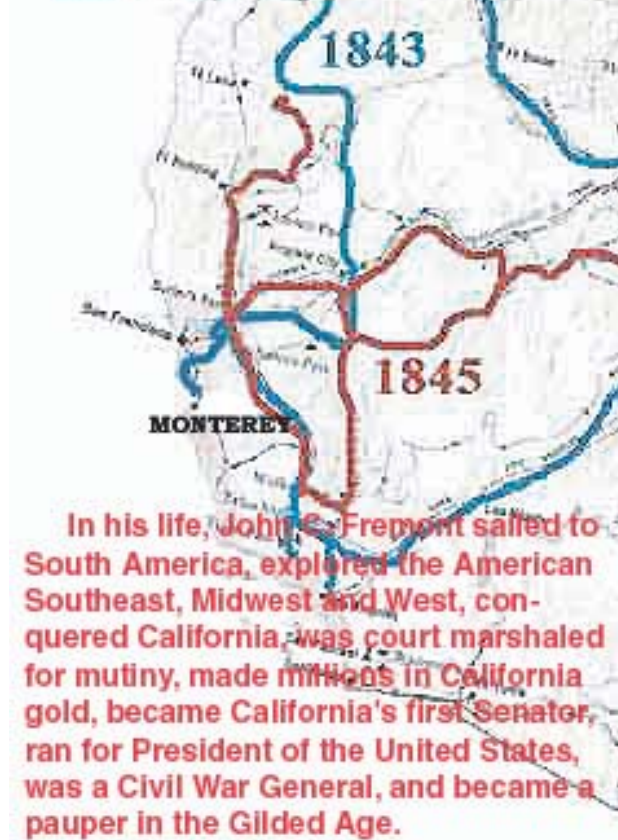
The Carmel Mission Wine Cellar

Wine Cellar Discovery by Sir Henry John "Harry" Downie

- For a period of some fifty years, beginning in 1931, Sir Harry Downie undertook the reconsutruction and restoration of the Carmel Mission
- Diocesan Curator Sir Richard Menn learned from Sir Harry Downie that the courtyard and Convento area fronting the Carmel Mission church contains the buried remains of the original mission wine cellar
- During Sir Harry Downie's excavation to recover foundation materials of the original quadrangle, a staircase to a subterranean room or cellar was discovered and partially exposed
- At the foot of the staircase, Sir Harry Downie found the remains of a human skeleton that dated to the period of Colonel John C. Fremont's encampment at the Mission (ca 1846-48)
- Among those artifacts recovered with the skeletal remains was an elaborately ornamented short handled sword or sabre now located in the Carmel Mission museum
- Sir Harry reburied the staircase due to a lack of funding and time
- On August 7, 2002 Sir Richard Menn and Dr. Ruben G. Mendoza proposed a ground penetrating radar survey and archaeological recovery of the Wine Cellar
- Project objectives: to locate, explore, recover, and preserve the original Carmel Mission wine cellar



General Fremont's Western Expeditions



In his life, John C. Fremont sailed to South America, explored the American Southeast, Midwest and West, conquered California, was court marshaled for mutiny, made millions in California gold, became California's first Senator, ran for President of the United States, was a Civil War General, and became a pauper in the Gilded Age.



Colonel John C. Fremont

- In his life, Col. Fremont sailed to South America, explored the American Southeast, Midwest and West, conquered California, was court marshaled for mutiny, made millions in California gold, became California's first Senator, unsuccessfully sought the Presidency of the United States, was a Civil War General, and became a pauper in the Gilded Age
- Fremont remained in the background of events, not directly involving the United States in the Bear Flas rebellion. He and his force, however, had already been branded "bandits" by General Castro, after an alleged horse stealing episode near Salinas in May of 1846
- It is popular belief that Colonel Fremont and his troops were billeted in the ruins of the Carmel Mission during his expeditions on the Central Coast of California
- A dagger recovered within the wine cellar stairway by Sir Harry Downie has been attributed to Colonel



Carmel Mudstone

- Carmel Mudstone is also known as Monterey Formation and consists of various sedimentary rocks
- Mudstone was formed during the Middle Miocene epoch (between 12 and 17 million years ago)
- Carmel Mudstone is composed of siltstones, sandstones, and shale compacted by sediments laid down as shallow seas intruded and withdrew from the continental borderlands
- This formation is to be observed in many coastal California rock and exposures from Point Reyes southward into southern California
- Mudstone was used extensively in this area for buildings, fireplace rock, walkways, and entryways
- The foundation for the old Convento and the wine cellar was composed of Carmel Mudstone



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Monterey Bay