

THE LATE DR. PEABODY.

Many early residents of Martinez and vicinity enjoyed the personal friendship of Dr. W. F. Peabody, for some years a practising physician in Benicia. The ties formed in those pioneer days seem to have been unusually strong and lasting, and at the instance of one of these argonauts we publish the preamble and resolutions passed by the Society of California Pioneers on the occasion of his death last January, which will no doubt be appreciated by his surviving friends hereabouts:

Dr. William Frederick Peabody was born in Sandwich, Carroll county, N. H., November 24, 1817.

At the age of fourteen years, seeking to gain a livelihood for himself, he embarked on a sailing vessel before the mast, from Boston to Liverpool, but after making one voyage abandoned the sea and went with his parents to Andover, Massachusetts, where he attended school, receiving a thorough education. After finishing his studies he went to Baltimore, teaching in Mount Hope College for three years, and studying medicine, graduating at the University of Maryland March 12, 1846, with high honors.

The news of the discovery of gold on the Western shores induced him to join the throng of adventurers. He embarked on the steamship Oregon on her voyage via the Straits of Magellan, arriving at this port in command of Capt. R. H. Pearson, April 1, 1849.

He made a hurried trip to the diggings, but finding mining not congenial to his disposition, returned and settled in Benicia, where he entered upon the practice of his profession as a physician. Here he remained for fourteen years practising medicine. During this period he served as Mayor of the City for two terms. From Benicia he removed to Santa Cruz, where he followed his profession until the year 1875.

1890 05 03 Bio of Dr William F Peabody



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