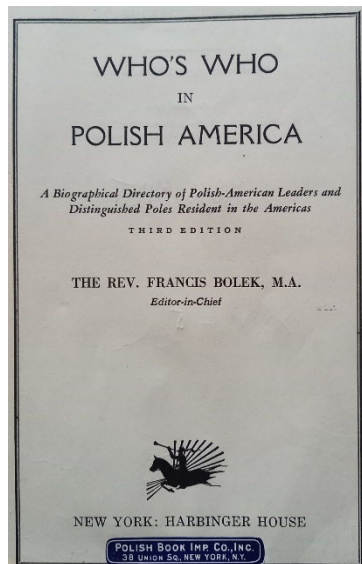


## Feliks Paweł (Felix Paul) Wierzbicki

Material compiled by **Maureen Mroczek Morris** over the course of a decade. The most comprehensive record of Wierzbicki's life and work, to date, so far as we know. Wanda and Caria Tomczykowska (Polish Arts and Culture Foundation) did much to share Wierzbicki's story, as did the local Polish community. Please acknowledge.

Summary slide show about Wierzbicki's life:  
<http://www.PolishClubSF.org/WierzbickiAward.pdf>



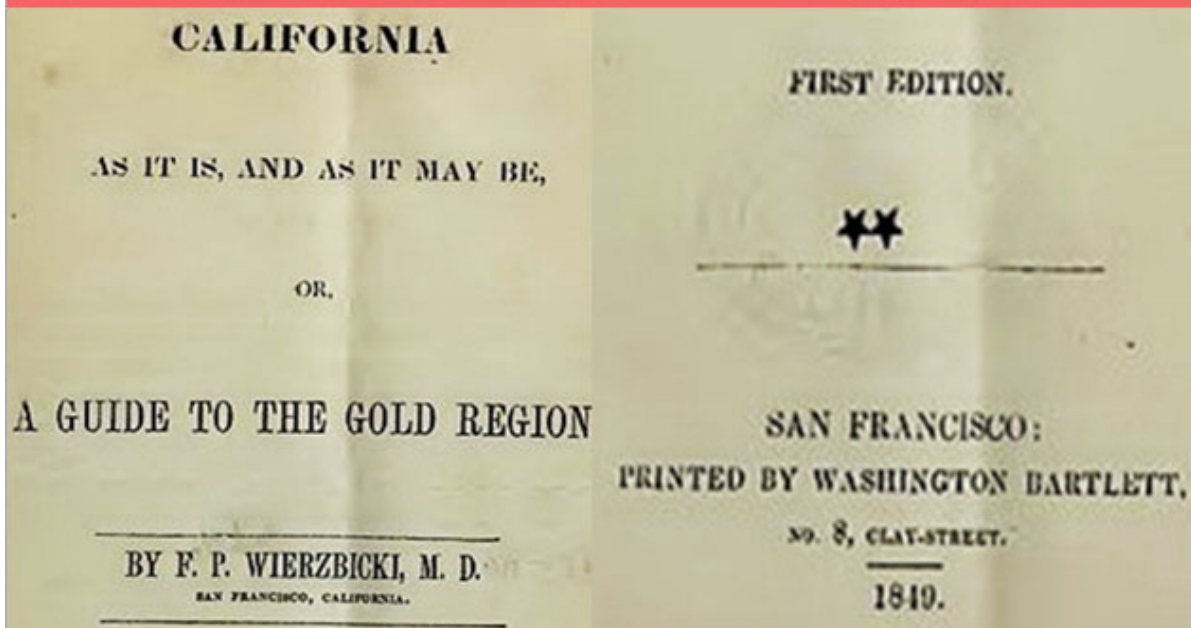
Wierzbicki, Felix Paul. Physician. Pioneer of California. Hero of the Mexican War in 1846. Born Jan. 1, 1815 in Poland. At the age of 15 active in the insurrection movement in Poland in 1931 against Russia. Captured by the officials of the Austrian government, jailed only to be deported with 235 others for America on March 31, 1834. In 1846, as a doctor of medicine, joined U.S. Army, Colonel Stevenson's Regiment and arriving in California early in 1847, became one of the most famous pioneers of the state. Helped to organize the first medical society in San Francisco, Cal. His knowledge of the treatment of metals was often utilized by the United States Mint in San Francisco, Cal.; engaged here until his death Dec. 26, 1860. Buried in Laurel Hill cemetery in San Francisco, Cal., where the citizens of California built a marble monument in his honor. Wrote several books, some of them are: "California as it is and as it may be, or a guide to the Gold Region," 1849, San Francisco, Cal. (this book is the first one ever printed in California). "Idealny Czlowiek" (in Polish), (The Ideal Man), 1941, and others. Contributed many articles to the American Weekly Review in New York, 1846. For some time a teacher in Amherst College; practiced medicine in Providence, R. I.

Polish American Studies article about Wierzbicki:

<http://www.PolishClubSF.org/FeliksPawelWierzbickiInCalifornia.pdf>

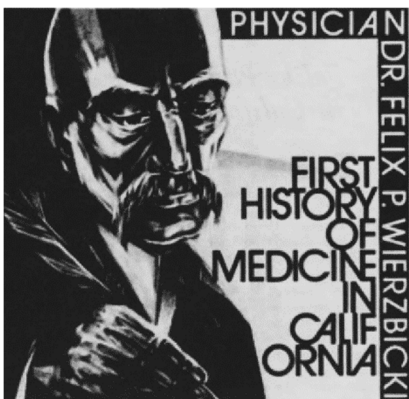
Widger (Benj.), 1847, Co. I, N.Y. Vol. (v. 499). Wierzbicki (Felix P.), 1847, Co. H, ditto; a Polish physician and author; owner of lots and participant in a political meeting at S.F. '47. v. 455. In '48 he sends Gen. Vallejo a copy of his work entitled *The Ideal Man*. He was also the author of *California as It is and as It may be, or A Guide to the Gold Region*, S.F., 1849, 8vo, 60 pp., published in 2 editions by Washington Bartlett (mayor of S.F. as I write, in '85), and the 1st book ever printed in this city. Dr W. died at S. F. in '60. Wiggins (Wm), 1840, nat. of N.Y., who crossed the plains from

**“Probably the most important book that was ever printed in California” (Wagner)**



San Francisco, 1849

**Free to read online:** <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/48156>





## They Carry a Promise: Selected Poems

By Janusz Szuber; Translated by Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough

### The Stormy Life of Ex-Sergeant W.

In 1847 a grievous lack of women was felt in California. That's why Dr. Feliks Wierzbicki complained about his unmarried state and dirty linen. With hydropathy he treated those sick of gold rush, cut with knives and pierced with bullets.

This western has its prologue in Volhynia, from which this underage soldier of the November Uprising came. He was later deported by the Austrian authorities to the United States, where he studied medicine, allegedly in Connecticut.

Before he enlisted (arriving in California after six months, by boat from New York), he wrote a treatise: *The Ideal Man. Conversation between Two Friends about Beauty, Goodness, and Truth.*

He didn't fight the Mexicans since in the meantime the war had ended and Sergeant Wierzbicki, a private again left the local garrison and his superiors with whom he couldn't come to terms.

We don't know if he searched for treasures. He roamed on horseback and on foot, crossed the Sierra Nevada, reached the great desert. A book about the Gold Country was the outcome of that, a best seller that went for five dollars a copy.

Maybe the defeat of the Uprising and the encyclical *Cum Primum* caused his attacks on the Church and the Jesuits. However, the doctor's true passion was metallurgy, And until his death he worked in a San Francisco mint.

Even though he published *An Essay on the History of Medicine*, he died of pneumonia at the age of forty-five, using steam baths instead of staying in bed and taking appropriate medications.

\*\*\*\*\*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix\\_Wierzbicki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Wierzbicki)

Born 1 January 1815, **Czerniowce**

## Czerniowce



Ordering the disorderly city: power, culture, and ... - Page 61

<https://books.google.com/books?id=c7sfAQAMAAJ>

Barbara Berglund - 2002 - Snippet view

F.P. Wierzbicki, a native of Poland, was not happy about this state of affairs. He wrote worriedly that, "In the midst of abundance of every kind women are very scarce; the domestic circle does not exist; domestic pleasures are wanting, and ...

Page 61

was his own housekeeper, doing, in many instances, his own sweeping, cooking, washing, and mending. Many home-arts, learned rather by observation than experience, came conveniently into play. He who cannot make a bed, cook a beefsteak, or sew up his own rips and rents, is unfit to be a citizen of California." F.P. Wierzbicki, a native of Poland,



books.google.com > books

The Polish Biographical Dictionary: Profiles of Nearly 900 ... - Page 428

Stanley S. Sokol, Sharon F. Mrotek Kissane, Alfred L. Abramowicz - 1992

FOUND INSIDE - PAGE 428

W.E.P.P. Wierzbicki , Felix Paul Physician / Writer : 1815 - 1860 A physician and writer born in Czerniowce , Felix Paul Wierzbicki studied medicine in ...

Położenie na mapie obwodu czerniowieckiego

(Przełącz na mapę Ukrainy)



Wierzbicki took part in the November Uprising, 1830-31 in Poland. He intended to study medicine but left school to become a soldier in the November Uprising. He fought in the battles of Olszynka Grochowska (25 II 1831) and Ostrołęka (26 V 1831) and defended Warsaw (6-7 IX 1831). After the Uprising the regiment in which he was a soldier retreated to Galicja (then Austria) where he was interned for three years. After his release from prison he emigrated to America (he was 19 years old). In his part of Wołyn there were problems with freedom of citizens in the small towns that Russians took over after the Napoleonic war. [per R. Włodek, Kraków, PL]

Polish Medical Science and History Bulletin - Volumes 3-5 - P...



<https://books.google.com/books?id=GZojAQAAMAAJ>

1960 - Snippet view - [More editions](#)

Dr. Feliks Paweł Wierzbicki — First Geographer and Medical Historian of California by Alexander Rytel, M.D., F.C.C.P. ... 8, 1831, Wierzbicki with his regiment crossed the frontier into Austrian-occupied Poland to avoid the penalty of death or ...

crossed the frontier... to avoid death

1830: Began his pre-med studies in **Warsaw**

Polish Medical Science and History Bulletin - Volumes 3-5 - P...



<https://books.google.com/books?id=GZojAQAAMAAJ>

1960 - Snippet view - [More editions](#)

Dr. Feliks Paweł Wierzbicki — First Geographer and Medical Historian of California by Alexander Rytel, M.D., F.C.C.P. Chicago ... Feliks Paweł Wierzbicki, born January 1, 1815 in Czarniowce, began his premedical studies in 1830, in Warsaw.

1833-34, New York, *Evening Post* -- Arrival of Polish passengers

Geneva, NY *Gazette Advertizer*, 9 April 1834

**ARRIVED LAST EVENING**  
Austrian Frigate *Guerrier*, Commodore [Baron Bendersa, 41 days from Gibraltar and about 4 months from Trieste, with 93 Polish passengers.  
Frigate *Hebe*, Baron Sordeau, from Trieste about 4 months and 41 days from Gibraltar, 141 Polish passengers.

Two Austrian frigates of 46 guns each, arrived at New-York on Friday last, from Trieste, with 234 Polish passengers. They consist of some gentlemen of distinction in the late Polish army, many soldiers, and some artizans and agriculturalists.

Place:	New York, New York
Annotation:	Date and port of arrival. Polish exiles who came from Trieste to New York on the frigates <b>Guerriera and Hebe</b> ; on the <b>corvettes Lipsia and Adria</b> ; and to Boston on the <b>merchant vessel Cherokee</b> .
Source Bibliography:	LERSKI, JERZY JAN. "List of the Polish Exiles in the United States of North America." In A Polish Chapter in Jacksonian America: The United States and the Polish Exiles of 1831. Madison, MI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1958, pp. 172-180.
Page:	177

Reportedly arrived in the USA on **28 March 1834**: From Trieste to **New York**

1835, Yale University, **Connecticut**

Felix Paul Wierzbicki,	Poland, Europe,	Dr. N. Brigham,	Mr. Lewis,
William Browning Williams,	North Stonington,	Dr. Wattle,	Mrs. Woodworth's, 1st.
Aron Wright,	Richmond, Ind.	Drs. Plummer and Tomlinson,	Dr. Tomlinson's, 2nd.
Jesse Wright,	Richmond, Ind.	Drs. Plummer and Tomlinson,	Dr. Tomlinson's, 1st.
Levi Daniels Wright,	Middle Haddam,	Drs. Smith and Hutchinson,	Mr. Shepherd's, 2nd.
			MEDICAL STUDENTS, 60.

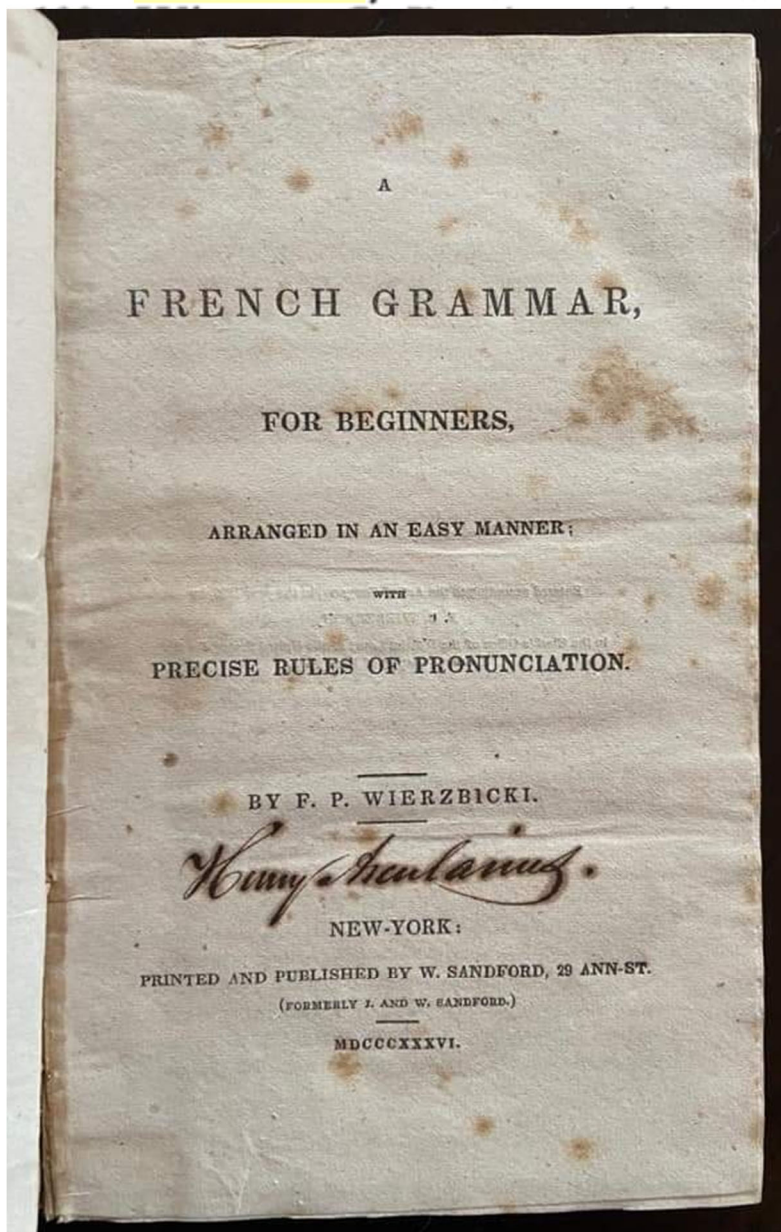
ABBREVIATIONS.—Y. C. Yale College. An. Anatomy. Ch. Chemistry,



**Name:** Felix Paul Wierzbicki  
**Publication Year:** 1835  
**Publication State:** Connecticut  
**School Name:** Yale University  
**Residence:** Poland, Europe  
**Title:** Catalogue of the officers and students in Yale College, 1835-36.

1836

331 **Wierzbicki, F. P.** French Grammar for beginners. N. Y., 1836



Reportedly taught French at Northampton, MA for about 1.5 years

https://books.google.com/books?id=q2u7AAAAIAAJ  
Ladislav John Siekaniec - 1976 - Snippet view - More editions  
"90 Thus with certainty it can only be said that Wierzbicki taught French at Northampton for about a year and a half, ... held that November to commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Polish "November Uprising" of 1830 against Russia .

1837

**TO THE TEACHERS OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.**—We would invite the attention of the Teachers to the French Grammar by Mr. J. P. WIERZBICKI, just published by W. Sandford, formerly J. & W. Sandford. It is calculated to supercede all books of that nature that may be found in the market at present, and there is no doubt that it will become very popular on account of the improvements that there are, which facilitate all difficulties with which an English pupil meets: here we will specify some of them. Until now-a-days, it was thought that an Englishman could not learn the pronunciation of the French Language, without hearing one who pronounces it correctly himself; but Mr. Wierzbicki's Grammar teaches us the fallacy of that opinion, for the fact is, that until now there was no grammar that gave any satisfactory rules facilitating the difficulty; his grammar on the contrary, gives all rules that there are in the language, (for he speaks about every letter giving its proper sound,) so much so, that we will not hesitate to pronounce that every one may acquire a good pronunciation of the French without even a teacher, though true, that that nicety of the pronunciation which cannot be described in no way but acquired and appreciated only by the ear, is left to be learned by the organ of hearing. Upon the whole the precise rules that he (the author) gives will enable every one to be understood by every Frenchman. He likewise made a new classification of the *article* which cannot be found elsewhere, that article the use of which puzzles every Englishman that attempts to speak French. Likewise he gives rules in what order the French words ought to be used in order to make an intelligible sentence, (this cannot be found in any other grammar;) finally the arrangement that pervades his grammar is a new and easy one, calculating to facilitate the study of that beautiful language for the pupil, and lessen the labor of the teacher, and we are so confident of its merits that we will say nothing of it ourselves, but solicit a candid perusal of the teachers, for we are satisfied they will be pleased with it. Indeed it bids fair to supercede all others. It can be had at wholesale or retail at the office of publication, 29 Ann st. N. Y.

W. SANDFORD.

French Grammar by FP Wierzbicki... calculated to supercede all books of that nature

**A FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, by F. P. Wierzbicki.** This is the name of a work just published by Charles Hubbell, of this city. It contains what professes to be very precise rules of pronunciation, but we set little value, in general, upon attempts to teach the pronunciation of a foreign tongue by means of written rules—the voice of the mother is the only true method. The collection of ideas and peculiar constructions of the French language which Mr. Wierzbicki's work contains is ample and valuable.

1839, New Bedford, Massachusetts (Taught French, at Amherst College (?), Massachusetts)

Wierzbicki P. F. teacher of French, boards 17 Walnut.

17 Walnut is a faculty address at Amherst

Page 99  
I am sorry to say that I cannot find that we have ever had a Dr. Felix Paul Wierzbicki on our Faculty. I have searched the Biographical Records which have been published from time to time covering alumni and faculty, early catalogues, the trustee records--all our records, in fact--and find no mention of him.<sup>87</sup>

New Bedford, Massachusetts

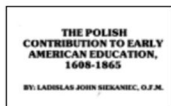
Page 99  
The late mentioned source should have shown that Haiman requested help on Wierzbicki's teaching from Amherst College and was told that "in spite of thorough searching of all records from 1825 to 1850, no mention was found about Wierzbicki as a teacher."<sup>86</sup> Independently, the writer of the present study, before he had received the work of Haiman through inter-library loan, made a similar inquiry, and received this thorough reply from Miss Rena Durkan, Curator:



It will be seen by a reference to our advertising columns that Mons. Wierzbicki intends to deliver several popular lectures in this town on "the cause of Life and Death." The first lecture will be delivered at Lyceum Hall, on Tuesday evening next. Mons. W. is eminently well qualified by extensive attainments in literary and scientific knowledge to impart a high degree of interest to an investigation of the moral and physical laws of nature, and we hope that the opportunity will be availed of by many of our readers. We would suggest to the lecturer, if not entirely incompatible with his present subject, the expediency of extending enquiry so as to embrace the *means of procuring a livelihood*. In the present season of commercial gloom and distress, a solution of this difficult problem would attract many hearers of all classes and professions.

1841-1844, Providence, **Rhode Island**

**The Polish Contribution to Early American Education, 1608-1865**



Ladislav John Siekaniec  
 R and E Research Associates, 1976 - Education - 172 pages  
 ★★★★★  
 0 Reviews

Faculty housing, Burnett House, **17 Walnut, Amherst College**

**[PDF] Buildings and Grounds Collection - Amherst College**

[https://www.amherst.edu/.../Buildings\\_and\\_Grounds\\_20...](https://www.amherst.edu/.../Buildings_and_Grounds_20...) ▾ Amherst College ▾

Faculty Housing – Burnett House, 17 Walnut St. .... 1839. Drawing by Orra Hitchcock, photograph - for original see: the Edward and Orra White Hitchcock Papers.

**1841: Providence, Rhode Island**

204 PROVIDENCE DIRECTORY.  
 Webster Levi B. (botanic) 96 Westminster  
 Webster John, do. do  
 Wheaton Francis L. 63 N. Main  
 Wheaton Levi 73 Benefit  
 Whitney Hercules, corner Pawtuxet and Claverick  
 Wiggin Chase, 97 Benefit  
 Wierzbicki F. P. Franklin House

**Franklin House Hotel**

· THE · FRANKLIN · HOTEL ·  
 · 31 · NORTH · MAIN · STREET · PROVIDENCE ·  
 · PROVIDENCE · COUNTY · RHODE · ISLAND ·



· ARCHITECT ———  
 · JOHN · HOLDEN · GREENE ·  
 · ERECTED · ABOUT · 1825 ·

We can assume that in 1841 he was living in Providence, Rhode Island, as the preface to his pamphlet *The Ideal Man* is inscribed with his initials, that date and Providence, Rhode Island. He is listed in that city's Directory for 1844 as F. P. Wierzbicki, physician

NAUKI RAZEM WZIĘTE, NOTY, N. 1841. 351

Fakultetu Filozoficznego; *Teologii moralnej i języków wschodnich*, Ignacy Chłodziński; drugi i języka greckiego, Michał Wichert; *Teologii Prof. Nadzwyczajny i Regens Alumnatu papieżkiego*, Felix Wierzbicki; *Teologii i Prawa kanonicznego*, Stefan Wierzbicki i Michał Bar-

1842: penned "The Ideal Man" (in Boston?)

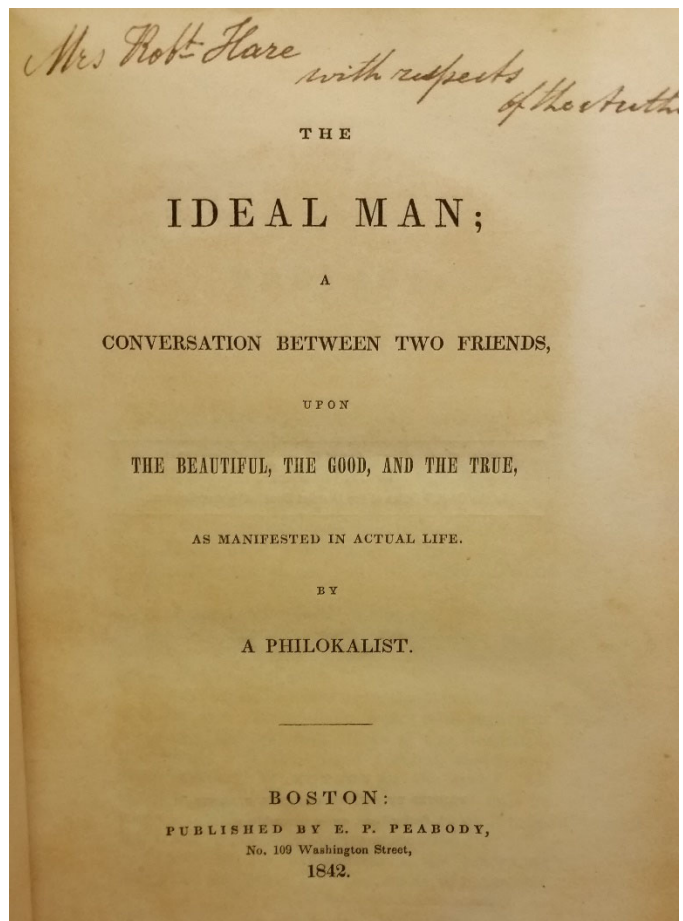
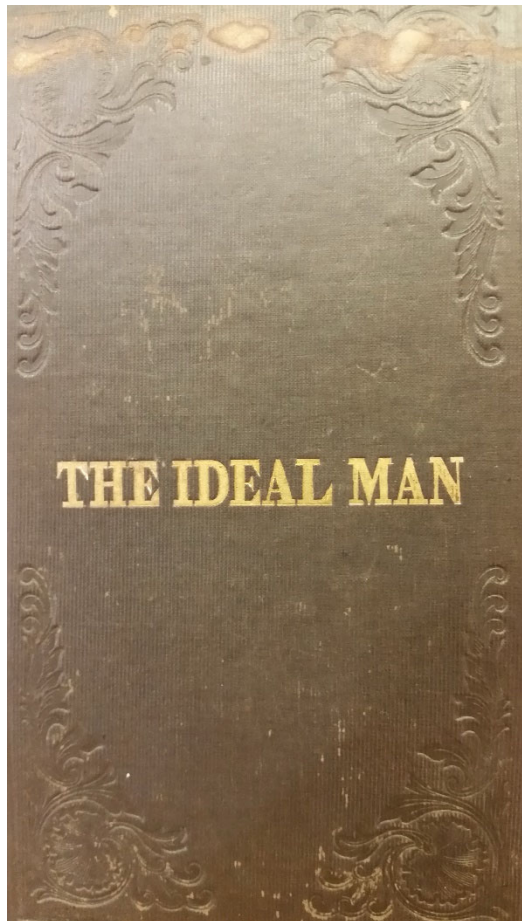
[A contemporary review of the book](#), *The Boston Quarterly Review*, April 1842

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*The Ideal Man. A conversation between Two Friends, upon the Beautiful, the Good, and the True, as manifested in actual Life.* By a Philokalist. Boston: E. P. Peabody. 1842. 12mo. pp. 160. — The title of this book is long and unpromising; the pages also are broad, and have a heavy and forbidding look; there is nothing in the style or matter that suddenly arrests the attention of him who is listlessly turning over its leaves; and almost every one will be disposed, after a hasty glance, to throw it down, with the feeling that, though it may be a very good book, it must be also a very dull one. And yet this judgment would be altogether wrong. We have found the book quite readable, and have been favorably impressed with the author's goodness of heart, seriousness of purpose, and general literary ability. We will not claim for the book uncommon brilliancy, or great originality, but we have noted several of its passages which are very felicitous, striking as to thought, and beautiful in manner. When we consider that the author is a foreigner, and writing in a foreign tongue, we are struck with the general purity, freedom, and flexibility of his language. The author is an exile in this country, from his home, his native land, the unhappy Poland. We hope our countrymen will make him regret his exile as little as possible. He has decidedly a literary turn of mind, a free spirit, and a warm heart; and they will find themselves well repaid for encouraging his literary enterprises.

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*Mrs Robt Flare with respects of the Author*

THE  
IDEAL MAN;

A  
CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS,

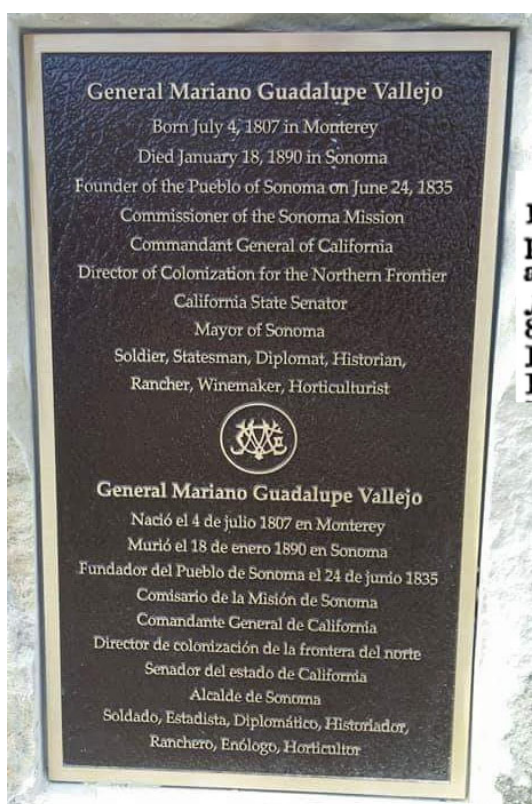
UPON  
THE BEAUTIFUL, THE GOOD, AND THE TRUE,

AS MANIFESTED IN ACTUAL LIFE.

BY  
A PHILOKALIST.

BOSTON:  
PUBLISHED BY E. P. PEABODY,  
No. 109 Washington Street,  
1842.

Original copy available for viewing, by appt., Polish Club SF  
Contact: Maureen Mroczek Morris



Widger (Benj.), 1847, Co. I, N.Y. Vol. (v. 499). Wierzbicki (Felix P.), 1847, Co. H, ditto; a Polish physician and author; owner of lots and participant in a political meeting at S.F. '47. v. 455. In '48 he sends Gen. Vallejo a copy of his work entitled *The Ideal Man*. He was also the author of *California as It is and as It may be, or A Guide to the Gold Region*, S.F., 1849, 8vo, 60 pp., published in 2 editions by Washington Bartlett (mayor of S.F. as I write, in '85), and the 1st book ever printed in this city. Dr W. died at S. F. in '60. Wiggins (Wm), 1840, nat. of N.Y., who crossed the plains from

A copy of *The Ideal Man* was presented to General Mariano Vallejo

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/101821411>

1844 **New York**: Celebration of the Polish Revolution [of Nov. 1830]

**The Evening Post (New York, New York) • 18 Nov 1844, Mon • Page 2**

CELEBRATION OF THE POLISH REVOLUTION.—On the ensuing 29th of this month the revolution of Poland, in 1830, will be celebrated by the Polish exiles and their friends of this city, at the Stuyvesant Institute in Broadway. The chair will be taken by Theodore Sedgwick, from whom as well as from Mr. Foresti, Major Davezac, Mr. Stahlknecht, Haro Haring, A. Girard, Dr. **Wierzbicki** and Mr. Kalussowski addresses are expected. Of course they will be in several languages, but a printed paper containing an abstract of such as are not in English will be distributed among the audience. The admission will be gratuitous, and neither collection nor subscriptions will be taken, so that all who choose may attend without fear of any appeal being made to their pockets. Music adapted to the occasion, will be performed by eminent artists.

**The Polish anniversary.**—On Saturday evening a very interesting commemoration of the anniversary of the Polish revolution was held at the Stuyvesant Institute in New York, Vice Chancellor McCoun presiding, assisted by Judge Oakley as vice president. John Jay introduced resolves denouncing the infamous partition of Poland, and recognizing the spirit of nationality among her scattered sons as the guaranty for her restoration to the roll of nations. Theodore Sedgwick and Dr. Wierzbicki addressed the meeting in English, Mr. Foresti in Italian, and Col. Kalussowski in French. Prof. Hebbe, of Stockholm, recited a poem in Swedish.

**Speech in New York about the 1830 Polish Uprising**  
**(transcribed speech is included toward the end of this file)**

events and functions. In November, 1844, a public mass meeting was held under the auspices of the recently formed [1842] Association of Poles in America [Towarzystwo Polaków w Ameryce] to commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Polish November Uprising of 1830. The meeting was held in the Stuyvesant Institute of New York "amid much splendor," and among those who gave speeches in English was Wierzbicki, who was also considered one of the Association's commissioners. In his speech he attacked the Polish gentry and the Jesuits as contributing to Poland's downfall. His stand naturally contributed to dissension and caused a split in the organization between those who supported his view and those who supported the pro-monarchist stance of an organization called the Third of May Society [Towarzystwo Trzeciego Maja].

[Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 63](#)

**The Evening Post**

PAGE 2

📍 New York, New York

📅 Monday, December 01, 1845

**POLISH CELEBRATION.**—The anniversary of the Polish revolution in 1830 was celebrated last evening by a public meeting, and suitable addresses, at the Stuyvesant Institute. The meeting was very well attended; behind the tribune, or platform for the speakers, were hung the flags of the United States and Poland. The chair was taken by Theodore Sedgwick, Esq., who read a letter from the Hon. Albert Gallatin, expressing his sympathy with the sons of Poland, and his regret that his health prevented him from presiding at the meeting as he had been requested. Mr. Sedgwick then delivered a brief address, and was followed by Mr. Kalussowski, in the Polish language, Mr. F. Stahlknecht in English, and Mr. F. E. Foresti in Italian. Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki next spoke and reviewed, in a somewhat lengthened address, the history, from an early date, of the arts, literature and general progress of Poland. Harro Haring next delivered a poem in German.

The chairman then introduced Dr. Howe, of Boston, who was received with the marked respect and esteem to which his distinguished efforts in the cause of freedom so richly entitle him. He gave an interesting account of his connexion, as agent of the American Society, with the revolution in Poland in 1830. Mr. A. Girard next spoke in French, and was received with much applause.

The meeting concluded with an effective address from Mr. Wright Hawkes.—*N. Y. Commercial, Saturday.*



mans arrived with their standards. Among the Americans were invited all of these who in the past had displayed interest in and helped the émigrés and the Polish cause. Among them were the following: from Boston, Samuel Gridley Howe; from New York, James Fenimore Cooper, James King, Albert Gallatin, W. M. Townsend, Samuel B. Morse, William C. Bryant, M. Coun and editors and publishers of New York newspapers.<sup>83</sup> In general, about a thousand people took part in the ceremony. At the president's table sat the following: Theodore Sedgwick; Harro Haring, a Danish publicist and poet; E. F. Foresti, an Italian revolutionary; Szpilberg, a prisoner for many years; Martin R. Zabriskie, a candidate for representative of the Unification of Polish Emigration in the United States; Stahlknecht, a Norwegian emigrant; Antoni Gerard, of French descent and "in mind and heart our com-patriot," a participant of the November Uprising<sup>84</sup>; Henryk Kafussowski; and Feliks Paweł Wierzbicki. Theodore Sedgwick opened the ceremony. Kafussowski and Wierzbicki spoke. In their speeches they referred to the November Uprising and Poland's continuing right to independence. In Wierzbicki's speech, given in English, there were many critical words directed at the Polish nobility whom he believed were guilty for the fall of Poland. He did not spare criticism of the Jesuits who, in his opinion, were jointly guilty for the national tragedy.<sup>85</sup>

Wierzbicki's speech was considered offensive to the Poles in the Society of the Third of May. It became the reason for a long polemic and discussion among the Polish émigrés in the United States, and especially New York. Eventually it led to a continuous discord between the Society of Poles and the Society of the Third of May. From that time on the Polish émigrés celebrated of the anniversary of the outbreak of the uprising separately. Ludwik Jerzykiewicz, Piotr Kowalewski, director of the Society of the Third of May, and Jan Sobieszczanski, secretary of the same society, were the most offended by Wierzbicki's speech and they attacked him.<sup>86</sup>

From the representatives of other nationalities the speakers included Foresti and Stahlknecht. Harro Haring read his verse written especially for

83 "XXIX listopada w Ameryce," 1; Gallatin Papers, 1844, 66, New-York Historical Society.

84 "XXIX listopada w Ameryce," 1.

85 Wierzbicki's speech was printed in its totality in what was then the most important Polish newspaper in New York, *The New York Daily Tribune*, December 1, 1844. In their reports to the



**Lectures in aid of the Apprentices' Library**—To be delivered at the Lecture Room of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, No. 34 Crosby-st. between Grand and Broome streets.

It is proposed to deliver, at the above named place, a course of Lectures, as follows.

TUESDAY, Jan. 14th—The Library—its Benefits and Claims, by JOHN B. SCOLLES, Esq.

FRIDAY, Jan. 17th—The History of Poland to the late Revolution, by Dr. F. P. WIERZBICKI.

TUESDAY, Jan. 21st—On the Planets, by Dr. LARDNER.

FRIDAY, Jan. 24th—The History of Poland; the late Revolution by Dr. F. P. WIERZBICKI.

TUESDAY, Jan. 28th—On Comets, by Dr. LARDNER.

FRIDAY, Jan. 31st—The History of Poland subsequent to the late Revolution: its Literature, Manners, Customs, &c. by Dr. F. P. WIERZBICKI.

TUESDAY, Feb. 4th—The Stellar Universe, by Dr. LARDNER.

The history of Poland in the late Revolution by F.P. Wierzbicki (January 17 and January 24, 1844)  
Lectures in aid of the Apprentices' Library, New York

1845: Naturalized, New York City

*Granted that applicant can't be admitted a Citizen of the United States. By the Court. Adm. Boston Clerk*

**Marine Court of the City of New-York,** Present *Smith*  
City and County of New-York, ss. *Adolphus L.P. Lopes*

being duly sworn, saith, that he, this Deponent, knows and is well acquainted with *Felix Paul Wierzbicki* and that he, the said *Felix Paul Wierzbicki* has resided within the United States five years at least, and within the State of New-York one year at least; and further, that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Sworn in open Court, this 22 day of July 1845 } *Ad. Lopes*

*J. Smith*

I, *Felix Paul Wierzbicki* DO DECLARE, ON OATH, before the Marine Court of the City of New-York, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure, all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, of whom I was before a subject. *Emperor of Russia*

Sworn in open Court, this 22 day of July 1845 } *F. P. Wierzbicki*

*J. Smith*

W621

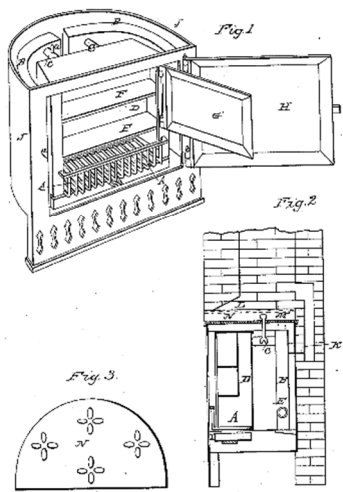
Family Name		Given Name or Names	
WIERZBICKI		FELIX PAUL	
Title and Location of Court			
MARINE COURT N.Y. CITY			
Date of Naturalization	Volume or Bundle No.	Page No.	Copy of Record No.
JULY-22-1845	25	-	229
Address of Naturalized Person			
N.Y. CITY			
Occupation	Birth Date or Age	Former Nationality	
/	/	RUSSIAN	
Port of Arrival in the United States		Date of Arrival	
/		/	
Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization			
1	ADOLPHUS L. P. LOPES-		N.Y. CITY
2	/		

1845: Secured a patent with Henry Katussowski

To Henry Katussowski and F. P. Wierzbicki of New York city, for Improvement in stoves for fire-places: patented 11th December, 1845.

Stoves, for fire-places.....	H. Katussowski and F. P. Wierbicki.....	New York.....	Dec. 11, 1845
Stoves and fire-places	John H. I. etc	Salisbury, Conn	1845 10 1010

KATUSSOWSKI & WIERZBICKI.  
Domestic Oven.  
No. 4,308. Patented Dec. 11, 1845.





## DESCRIPTION (OCR text -- contains errors)

KALUSSOWSKI & WIERZBICKI Domestic Oven.

Patented Dec. 11, 1845.

PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY KALUSSOWSKI AND F. P. WIERZBICKI, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

STOVE FOR FIREPLACES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 4,303, dated December 11, 1845.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HENRY Kalussowski and F. P. WIERZBICKI, of the city of New York, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful improvements in the manner of constructing stoves and grates for heating apartments and to which may be also appended an apparatus for baking or cooking; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

We construct a grate of the kind usually employed in open fire-places for the burning of anthracite, which grate we suspend by means of straps, or ledges in such manner as that its back and sides shall not be in contact with the parts by which it is surrounded but shall be free to radiate heat from all its sides. The sides and back part of this grate are to be encompassed in whole or in part, by two radiating air heaters into which the gaseous products of combustion from the fire are to be introduced. These radiators, like the grates, are to be so suspended as that they shall be free to radiate heat from all their sides. Around these radiators we place an outer case of sheet or cast metal leaving a space for the passage of air between them; but as this apparatus is to be set in an ordinary fire-place the jambs and back of such fire-place may be made to constitute the case which is to surround the radiators. We provide a door by which the front of our grate may be closed in which case the air that passes in to feed the fire and that which is to be heated by the grate and radiators will enter in at the lower part of the apparatus, and the latter portion ascending within it will escape into the room through openings in the top of said apparatus prepared for that purpose.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of our stove and Fig. 2, a vertical section thereof from front to back through its center. In Fig. 1, it is shown as with the top plate removed which plate is represented separately in Fig. 3.

A A is a grate for containing the fuel, B, B, are the two, radiating air heaters which consist of hollow vessels of metal into which the heated air from the fire is to be admitted on its way to the exit pipe and chimney. These radiators should extend down as low as the bottom and up as high as the top of the grate; C C are two pipes leading on the back of the grate into the radiators, the draft from the fire passing up behind a partition plate D, Fig. 2, to these pipes. At their lower parts the two radiators are connected together by a pipe as at E Fig. 2, and one of the pipes C G is provided with a damper as at a by which it may be closed when the fire has been lighted and is burning clearly. When so closed the heated air from the fire will descend in one radiator to the connection pipe E and up through the other to the escape pipe K.

When desired, a compartment for baking, or cooking may occupy the space in the grate above the fire as shown at F; a door G being used to inclose this compartment; and by means of a small pipe leading therefrom into one of the radiators, the vapors arising from the articles that are being cooked, may be carried off.

H is a door for inclosing the grate when heated and returned into the room, will pass up between the grate and the radiators, and between the radiators and the outer shell or case J J of the stove or between them and the brick work when the apparatus is so set in a fire place as to cause the back and jambs to form the outer case. The top plate N Fig. 3 has openings made in it of any convenient or ornamental form, through which openings the air that has been heated will escape into the room, while that which has passed through the burning fuel will pass off through the escape pipe K into the chimney flue.

In getting this apparatus into a fire place, a plate, such as is shown in dotted lines at L, Fig. 2, is to be made to close the throat of, or entrance into the chimney, through which plate pipes M are to pass from the radiators; one of these is to be furnished with a valve or damper, for the purpose of causing the heated gases to circulate through the radiators as before described and under a like arrangement.

Instead of the plate L the top of the stove may be arched over with masonry, the object in either case being to conduct the heated air from both sides of the radiators B, B, into the apartment while the smoke from the grate is conducted into the chimney flue through the pipes K, or M the warm air passing into the room through the top plate N. Proper shutters or slides are to be provided for the purpose of closing openings into the radiators which must be made in order to allow of the removal of ashes, &c., therefrom as in many other stoves; the parts of the grate exposed to the direct action of the fire are to be lined with fire brick, &c., in the ordinary way. The door H may have perforations closed by mica for the purpose of giving a view of the fire as is frequently practised.

Having thus fully described the manner in which we construct and arrange the various parts of our apparatus for heating apartments, and shown the operation of the same, what we claim therein as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is The manner of combining and arranging the radiating air heaters, so that the air to be heated by them shall ascend on both sides of them, there being on the outside of and at a suitable distance from them, a shell, or case J J, or a casing of brickwork, performing the same office as set forth; and the fire place above the top plate N, being so inclosed by a suitable plate, or by masonry, as to cause the whole of the air heated by the radiators to pass in to the apartment in the manner described.

We do not claim the use of a radiator, or radiators like those marked 13, as new, such having been before used; but we limit our claim to that arrangement of them, by which they are made to heat an ascending current of air on each of their sides, for the purpose herein fully made known. We do not intend, however, by this claim to limit ourselves to the particular form of either of the parts of the said apparatus, but to vary these as we may think proper, while we attain the same end by an arrangement of parts substantially the same.

HENRY KALUSSOWSKI. F. P. WIERZBICKI.

Witnesses HENRY RICHARDSON, IRVING PARIS.

Publication number	US4303 A
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	Dec 11, 1845
Publication number	US 4303 A, US 4303A, US-A-4303, US4303 A, US4303A
Inventors	<a href="#">Henry Kalussowski</a>

## THE POLES.

The following letter has been sent to us:—

The undersigned, on behalf of the Poles wishing to commemorate the anniversary of their late revolution of 1830, take the liberty of informing you that this solemnity will take place at Stuyvesant Institute, Nov. 20, at 7 o'clock P. M., where they hope to have the honour of your attendance.

Committee by Invitation,—Hon. Luther Bradish, President. Hon. Wm. T. McCoun, Hon. T. J. Oakley, David Graham, Esq., John Jay, Esq., F. E. Foresti, Esq., Theodore Sedgwick, Esq., Harro Haring, Esq., F. S. Stallknecht, Esq., Vice Presidents. Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki, T. Kowalski, W. Lange, H. Kalussowski, W. Lutnicki, Committee of arrangements.

New York, Nov. 20th, 1845.

According to an official statement, from the accession of Nicholas to the throne (viz. 1825) to 1844, 75,000 prisoners were sent there; most of these were state criminals and Poles. Since that time it will be no exaggeration to say, that the number must have tripled.

The riches of the soil of Siberia may be appreciated, when we consider that at Tobolsk, the capital of the most southern province, turnips and the berries of the mountain-ash, are sold as luxuries, as strawberries and cherries are in this country. Every unfortunate being doomed to this desolate region, besides other ills, must suffer with an endemic abscess, which, like the yellow fever of the South, frequently puts an end to his existence. It is evident from these facts, how favorable is Siberia to the prolongation and development of the human life.

In point of civilization, Siberia is indeed enlightened; for it is continually peopled with the heroes of Russia and Poland—men of the first families in the land, suffering for virtue and for truth.

And now, I leave this defender of despotism, who mocks at the sufferings of his kind, with the single remark: that the Russian government spares neither money nor any other means to secure a favorable representation abroad, as friendly to civilization and humanity in its laws, that it may thus gain and maintain an influence on the affairs of the civilized world, and that it may in time turn it to the gratification of its insatiable lust of power—power which it retains by an iron hand at home, and by fiendish arts abroad.

**F. P. WIERZBICKI, M.D.**

New York, 507 Broadway

507 Broadway, New York, 1845

**Henryk Kalusowski** coat of arms Korwin (b. 11 of September 1806 in m. Kazimierzowo k. Braslav Lithuania, d. 23 December 1894 in Washington, DC) - Polish emigre activist, journalist and politician.

He participated in the November uprising. After the collapse founded in Brussels bookstore and printing shop Polish (1837). 1839 lived in the United States. He organized the Society of Poles in America (1842) and collaborated with the assumption the Democratic Society of Polish Exiles in America (1852). He worked as a professor at a college in Maryland. 1867 agency agreement of the National Government in America. In 1880 he founded a library and a museum at the Polish National Alliance and equipped them with a rich collection of prints and manuscripts. In 1891 was the initiator of the National Museum in Chicago.

Warsaw writings published in "Letters of America" (1871). [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henryk\\_Ka%C5%82ussowski](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henryk_Ka%C5%82ussowski)



## THE POLISH ANNIVERSARY.

On Saturday evening a very interesting commemoration of the anniversary of the Polish revolution was held at the Stuyvesant Institute, Vice Chancelior McCoun presiding, assisted by Judge Oakley, as Vice President of the meeting.

A letter from Luther Bradish, who had been expected to preside, was read, excusing himself on account of the illness of a near relative, and expressing his cordial concurrence in the objects of the meeting. The following resolutions were offered by John Jay, who introduced them with a few remarks upon the wrongs which Poland had endured from her more powerful neighbors.

### RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the wrongs of Poland involves principles of right, justice and humanity, peculiar to no land, but of universal interest; and that the tyranny perpetrated by Russia, and countenanced by the selfish apathy of surrounding Europe, demand from the American people the expression of stern indignation against the perpetrators, and of generous sympathy for the victims of their oppression.

2. That the History of Poland, from its first partition in 1772 to the present hour, teaches lessons of grave importance—that little dependence can be placed upon the magnanimity and good faith of Cabinets, when opposed by ambition and self interest—that a Nation's best security is in the virtue and vigilance of the people—the strict accountability of its rulers—and absolute exemption of all foreign influence.

3. That the Polish Revolution of 1830, was the natural result of the cruel despotism of Russia, marked, too, by violation of good faith, which increased its infamy; that the gallant struggle of that revolution was of all wars the most just, strictly a war of independence, characterized, on the part of Poland, no less by determined and patriotic valor, than by moderation and clemency towards those in whose cruelty it had originated; and that its failure, caused by the criminal indifference of the nations which, in the Congress at Vienna, had guaranteed her constitutional privileges, and followed by renewed and aggravated outrages on the part of the Emperor Nicholas, is a source of deep and permanent affliction to all who truly value those eternal principles of freedom which were proclaimed to the world in the Declaration of American Independence.

4. That the spirit of nationality constitutes the great element of a people's power, and that in this spirit, so religiously kept alive in dismembered Poland, and so beautifully exhibited among her patriot sons scattered in foreign lands, we recognize the surest guarantee for her restoration to the roll of independent nations, when the free principles now rapidly advancing through the world shall have accomplished the end to which they are inevitably tending.

SEE NEXT PAGE

The resolutions were seconded by Theodore Sedgwick, who spoke for a few minutes in a pithy and effective manner. Mr Foresti followed, who declaimed in Italian with great animation, speaking of the individuality of a nation as its life, and protesting against the severities by which the Russian government is attempting to extinguish the nationality of Poland, as an act of political murder.

Dr. Wierzbicki, one of the Polish exiles, then delivered in English a well written address. To the wrongs which Poland is enduring from the recent cruelties of the Russian government, and which he briefly enumerated, must be added, he said, the calumnies by which her history is falsified, and the character of her children blackened. He instanced the slanders heaped on the Poles in Alison's History of Europe, and complained of the unjust views of Polish history given by the Rev. Dr. Baird, who is traversing the country, and delivering lectures of the History of the Northern Nations of Europe. In speaking of the causes which led to the downfall of

SEE NEXT PAGE



Poland, he affirmed that the corrupt education given to the youth of the country by the Jesuits, who had engrossed the entire care of public instruction, was the principal.

Professor Hebbe, of Stockholm, being introduced to the meeting, recited a poem in Swedish hexameters, which was loudly applauded by the members of the Scandinavian Society, who had come in procession to the meeting with their banners. The audience found the sound of the Swedish language agreeable to the ear, and the melody of the hexameter verse was very perceptible, but the poem was too long for a composition understood by so small a part of the audience. At the close of the poem he inveighed with great warmth against the arbitrary cruelties which the Russian Emperor Nicholas is inflicting upon the Polish nation.

Colonel Kalussowski closed the proceedings of the evening with a short and neat address in French, delivered with great gentleness of intonation and modesty of manner.

The members of the Italian Guard attended the celebration in full uniform.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/79067547/?terms=Wierzbicki&match=1>

According to his obituary, about 1845 Dr. Wierzbicki taught French at Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1845.

*Boston Post*, December 1845

**The Polish anniversary.**—On Saturday evening a very interesting commemoration of the anniversary of the Polish revolution was held at the Stuyvesant Institute in New York, Vice-Chancellor McCook presiding, assisted by Judge Oakley as vice president. John Jay introduced resolves denouncing the infamous partition of Poland, and recognizing the spirit of nationality among her scattered sons as the guaranty for her restoration to the roll of nations. Theodore Sedgwick and Dr. Wierzbicki addressed the meeting in English, Mr. Foran in Italian, and Col. Kalussowski in French. Prof. Hebbe, of Stockholm, recited a poem in Swedish.

**Mississippi Elections.**—The returns from fifty-one counties have been received, and so far the average democratic majority is 7,789 votes, which will be considerably increased by the returns from the thirteen remaining counties. We append the vote for congressional candidates:—

The Polish anniversary—On Saturday evening a very interesting commemoration of the anniversary of the Polish revolution was held ... in New York. Theodore Sedgwick and Dr. Wierzbicki addressed the meeting in English... and Col. Kalussowski in French...

1846

Full Name: Felix P Wierzbicki <sup>[1]</sup>

## Mexican-American War <sup>1</sup>

Branch: Army <sup>[1]</sup>

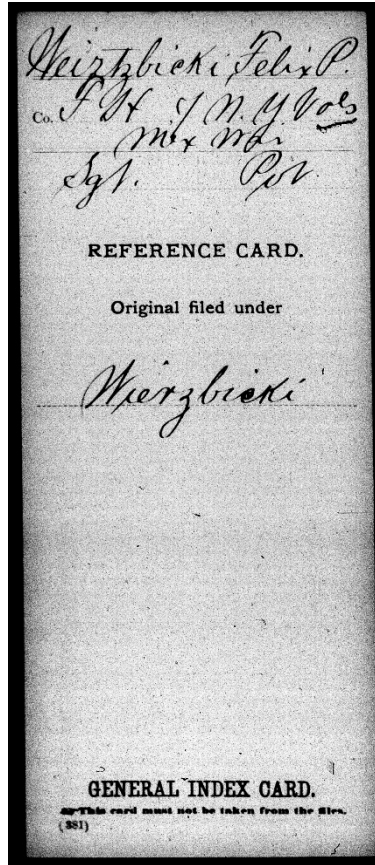
Company: F H <sup>[1]</sup>

Discharge Rank: Pvt <sup>[1]</sup>

Enlistment Rank: Sgt <sup>[1]</sup>

Military Unit: 7 New York Volunteers <sup>[1]</sup>

State: New York <sup>[1]</sup> 



Always remembering his native country, Wierzbicki sacrificed a great deal of his time to organize celebrations of Polish anniversaries in cooperation with the Polish committee. He was one of the members of the

kalist, a philosophical treatise *The Ideal Man*,<sup>24</sup> and in 1846, a series of articles on the history of Poland in *The American Whig Review*.<sup>25</sup>



# The American Review: A Whig Journal of Politics, Literature, Art, and Science (Google eBook)



George Hooker Colton, James Davenport Whelpley  
Wiley and Putnam, 1846 - [American literature](#)

New Bedford, MA

## Read online: Three Chapters on the History of Poland

### Chapter 1

488 *Three Chapters on the History of Poland.* [May,

THREE CHAPTERS ON THE HISTORY OF POLAND.

CHAPTER I.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=m90XAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA676&lpg=PA676&dq=%22Whig+Journal%22+Wierzbicki&source=bl&ots=Cy2V0VQTjd&sig=S2Tt\\_y-lxgO3fPu20eMqvQ8qbe0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=UzQ7VZ\\_BN4PooAS60oDIDQ&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=Wierzbicki&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=m90XAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA676&lpg=PA676&dq=%22Whig+Journal%22+Wierzbicki&source=bl&ots=Cy2V0VQTjd&sig=S2Tt_y-lxgO3fPu20eMqvQ8qbe0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=UzQ7VZ_BN4PooAS60oDIDQ&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=Wierzbicki&f=false)

### Chapter 2: The Revolution

1846.] *Three Chapters on the History of Poland.* 631 \*

THREE CHAPTERS ON THE HISTORY OF POLAND.

CHAPTER II.\*

THE REVOLUTION.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=m90XAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA676&lpg=PA676&dq=%22Whig+Journal%22+Wierzbicki&source=bl&ots=Cy2V0VQTjd&sig=S2Tt\\_y-lxgO3fPu20eMqvQ8qbe0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=UzQ7VZ\\_BN4PooAS60oDIDQ&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Whig%20Journal%22%20Wierzbicki&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=m90XAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA676&lpg=PA676&dq=%22Whig+Journal%22+Wierzbicki&source=bl&ots=Cy2V0VQTjd&sig=S2Tt_y-lxgO3fPu20eMqvQ8qbe0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=UzQ7VZ_BN4PooAS60oDIDQ&ved=0CCQQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Whig%20Journal%22%20Wierzbicki&f=false)

### Chapter 3: Character of the Poles

THREE CHAPTERS ON THE HISTORY OF POLAND. Chapter III.

Character of the Poles. By Dr. F. P. WIERZBICKI, . . . 45

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IN4XAQAAIAAJ&pg=PP11&dq=%22Dr.+F.P.+wierzbicki%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=jSc7VdDKPIjEogSE2YCgAQ&ved=0CCUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Dr.%20F.P.%20wierzbicki%22&f=false>

Poland, brighter days for; supplementary chapter to Three Chapters on the History of Poland, (Dr. Wierzbicki,) 188.

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_American\\_Whig\\_Review/FDg8AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22brighter+days+for+poland%22&pg=PA188&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_American_Whig_Review/FDg8AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22brighter+days+for+poland%22&pg=PA188&printsec=frontcover)

**26 Sept 1846:** Boarded the LooChoo for California with **Company H of Stevenson's Regiment** Lippett, he joined Stevenson's New York Regiment of Volunteers in September, 1846, to participate in the Mexican War. However, he applied too late to receive a commission and at his own request was assigned instead as a steward with Company H on a hospital ship with the rank of sergeant. He received a promise that as soon as a [Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 64](#)



Gg Hh

**1847 Arrived in San Francisco March 19 or March 26, 1847**

## Company H [edit]

- Captain, [John B. Frisbie](#).
- First Lieutenant, [Edward Gilbert](#), (Acting adjutant)
- Second Lieutenant, [John S. Day](#).
- Sergeant, [Eleazer Frisbie](#).
- Sergeant, [William Grow](#).
- Sergeant, [Henry A. Schoolcraft](#).
- Sergeant, [James Winne](#).

This Company was recruited at Albany, N. Y., by John B. Frisbie and Edward Gilbert, who upon its organization were elected respectively its captain and first lieutenant. On the evening of the 31st of July, 1846, the Company left Albany by steamboat, reaching New York early the following morning. The Company was escorted from the steamboat to the foot of Whitehall Street by Captain Cooke's Company of Artillery and the Albany Washington Riflemen; the latter Company fired a salute upon the embarkation of the Company at the Battery for Governor's Island, the rendezvous of the regiment.

Upon the embarkation of the regiment this Company was assigned to the ship "Susan Drew," and arrived at San Francisco on the 19th of March 1847, and was stationed at the Presidio until the 5th of Aug., 1848, when it exchanged post with "C" at Sonoma. A few weeks later the Company returned to San Francisco, and was mustered out of the service on the 25th of August, 1848.

Dr. Felix P. Wierzbicki, a Polish physician and author, came to California in 1847 as a hospital steward on board the *Loo Choo* with the expedition of Jonathan D. Stevenson. <http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Stevenson.pdf>

From: *A World Transformed*:

<sup>1</sup>The First Regiment of New York Volunteers, commanded by Jonathan D. Stevenson, was a motley group of 917 New York City farmers, mechanics, artisans, and petty criminals. These self-proclaimed adventurers agreed to fight Mexicans in exchange for free passage to California, but by the time they arrived in the spring of 1847, the war was over. During the gold rush, several men from Stevenson's Regiment formed the Regulators (commonly called the Hounds), a brutal vigilante group who "hounded" Hispanic San Franciscans out of town. Other members of Stevenson's Regiment went on to become prominent Californians, including John B. Frisbie (secretary of the Constitutional Convention of 1849), Rev. Thaddeus Leavenworth (*alcalde* of San Francisco in 1848 and 1849), Dr. Felix Wierzbicki (author of the first English-language book published in California), and San Francisco newspapermen Edward G. Buffum and Edward C. Gilbert.

Wierzbicki, Felix Paul (Feliks Paweł) (Dr.): Hospital Steward, U.S.S. Loo Choo/Pvt., Co. H, 1st New York Volunteers ("Stevenson's Regiment")

From the book, *M.W. Fifer, M.D.* by G. Asche

We strolled the Presidio where the doctor had laboured when the Volunteers first disembarked. "That was more than ten years ago, when the city was a fishing village called Yerba Buena, 'good grass'. How we hated this assignment, Ah Chung, breaking our backs at shifting the rubble of the ruins, between hours and hours of useless drill. Dr. Wierzbicki and I met here, though. 1847. He had shipped from New York on the *Loo Choo* while I was on the *Susan Drew*. The misery of the assignment to ready the ancient Spanish Presidio for American occupation brought us together and we have remained friends ever since." We wandered the hills in their green mantle of June, marveling from our viewpoints at the thousands of people where, ten years before, inhabitants numbered a mere few hundred.

Ship "Loo Choo," 639 tons burden, Jas. B. Hatch, Master, with Companies A, C, K, and a portion of Co. E, Major Jas. A. Hardie, commanding troops.

This ship was at New York in 1865, no trace of vessel since that date.

Ship "SUSAN DREW," 701 tons burden, Putnam, Master, with Companies D, I, H, and a portion of Co. E, Lieut. Col. Henry S. Burton commanding troops.

This ship was sold to British owners, name changed to "Magdalena," and sailed from San Francisco, February 4th, 1852, for Panama; in April, 1852, she was reported at Panama.

The "Perkins," "Loo Choo," and "Susan Drew" reached Rio de Janeiro the same day, Nov. 20, and sailed together on the 29th; at Rio de Janeiro, Captain James M. Turner resigned and returned home, and in the "Loo Choo," off Cape Horn, First Lieut. William R. Tremmels died. The "Perkins" reached San Francisco, March 6, 1847, 165 days from N. Y., having lost four by death and gained two by birth. The "Susan Drew" reached San Francisco March 19, 1847.

The "Loo Choo" struck a calm near the tropics which lengthened her passage, and it was during this calm that the poet of the ship wrote these lines which were published in the early papers of San Francisco. I only remember the following line,

"The old Loo Choo seemed dreaming  
So idly did she lay."

[The First Regiment of New York Volunteers: Commanded by ...](https://books.google.com/books?id=tplPAQAIAAJ)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=tplPAQAIAAJ>

1882 - Mexican War, 1846-1848

The "Perkins," "Loo Choo," and "Susan Drew" reached Rio de Janeiro the same ...

The "Perkins" reached San Francisco, March 6, 1847, 165 days from N. Y., ...

The following, which was written on board, Feb. 25, 1847, setting forth the objects of this visit to California, will be, I think, welcomed by all the survivors of that Regiment.

#### COLUMBIA'S GREETING TO CALIFORNIA.

BY W. M., FIRST REG'T N. Y. S. V.

California, awake! arise! 'tis time to sleep no more,  
The bright warm sun is even now the mountains peeping o'er;  
Awake! the night is speeding fast, the clouds have passed away,  
Already break the first faint beams of the fast coming day,  
And yet, though dark and heavy night has shrouded o'er the mind,  
Fair nature in material things has bounteous been and kind.  
Thy sleep was in defiance of each rich and saving boon,  
A dull and deep Siesta, 'neath the broad full light of noon!  
But now the waking hour is nigh, we come to set thee free.  
We come as doth the else unfruitful sea,  
To speed upon thy bosom, the barks of wealth and peace,  
To multiply a thousand fold the bounteous land's increase;  
We come to bring thee blessings rare, which freedom's age hath shed,  
Outgushing rich and plenteous as a mighty river head;  
We come to scatter then abroad, rich seed, which sown, shall be,  
Productive of a happy race, a people wise and free.  
Columbia sends her people on a message unto thee,  
She would that you were happy, she would that ye were free;  
Receive from her, her people, receive from her, her laws,  
Receive from her the spirit of His great and glorious cause,  
And when the Future shall mature, what now receives its birth,  
When California stands among the mighty powers of earth,  
When knowledge, Freedom, and the arts, have bro't forth glorious fruit,  
Each rivaling the other in one common grand pursuit.  
Then, Californians, pause to think, who brought these blessings rare,  
Think who it was first pealed the note of freedom on the air,  
And you will learn with heartfelt praise, to bless the happy day,  
When freedom took its westward flight to California.

U. S. TRANSPORT-SHIP, "LOO CHOO," Feb. 25, 1847.

He became involved in San Francisco civic affairs almost immediately upon his arrival in that city. His first step was to present a copy of his treatise *The Ideal Man* to General Marian Guadalupe Vallejo, well-known leader of the Mexican faction in California who was well-disposed to Americans living in the area.<sup>17</sup> On June 14th, 1847, a public meeting was held in the city at which a committee was appointed to seek evidence against the fitness of John C. Frémont to serve as governor.<sup>18</sup> Wierzbicki is listed among the "prominent" men appointed to that committee. Soon thereafter came the publication of his book *California as it is and as it may be; or, A guide to the gold region*, in mid-1849, and such was the popularity with which the work was received that Wierzbicki added two chapters and a second edition appeared a few months later. In

up by the Colonel to come to California. The full account of this regiment, etc., will be found in another place. Suffice it to say here that they left New York September 26, 1846, and arrived in San Francisco March 26, 1847, A. G. being in the famous old ship Loo Choo. They arrived just before sundown, and as the

that year Mr. Russ went to the mines at Hangtown, and for two weeks prospected in that vicinity. He then went to the middle fork of the American river, but, although doing well, ran short of food and had to return to San Francisco. In the spring of 1849 the father and three of the sons, A. G.

[The Bay of San Francisco: The Metropolis of the Pacific ...](https://books.google.com/books?id=ceUBAAAAMAAJ)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ceUBAAAAMAAJ>

1892 - San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

The city of San Francisco has not had a very long history, and yet in the years ... in San Francisco March 26, 1847, A. G. being in the famous old ship Loo Choo.

His first step was to present a copy of his treatise *The Ideal Man* to General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo



19 June 1847, *Californian*

and passed unanimously.

Dr. **Wierzbicki**, moved that a Committee of eight be appointed to investigate the conduct of Col. Fremont, since his arrival in California and report to a succeeding meeting, to be called by the Committee as soon as they were ready to report, which passed unanimously. Whereupon, Messrs. Frank Ward, R. Semple, Jasper O'Farrel, Joseph Thompson, J. P. Leese, William E. Leidesdorff, Timoty Murphy and Francisco Guerrero, were appointed that Committee.

—000—

Mr. O'Farrel succeeded these remarks; after which Messrs. Semple, Sherman and Ward. Dr. Wierzbicki arose and proposed the appointment of a committee of competent persons, who would collect such facts respecting the conduct of the colonel, as could be with ease substantiated, which would, he hoped, have sufficient bearing at home. A doubt of the probability of the many accusations might pervade the mind of some. This, to effect an unanimous expression of the people, should be removed. The committee would report at a specified time.

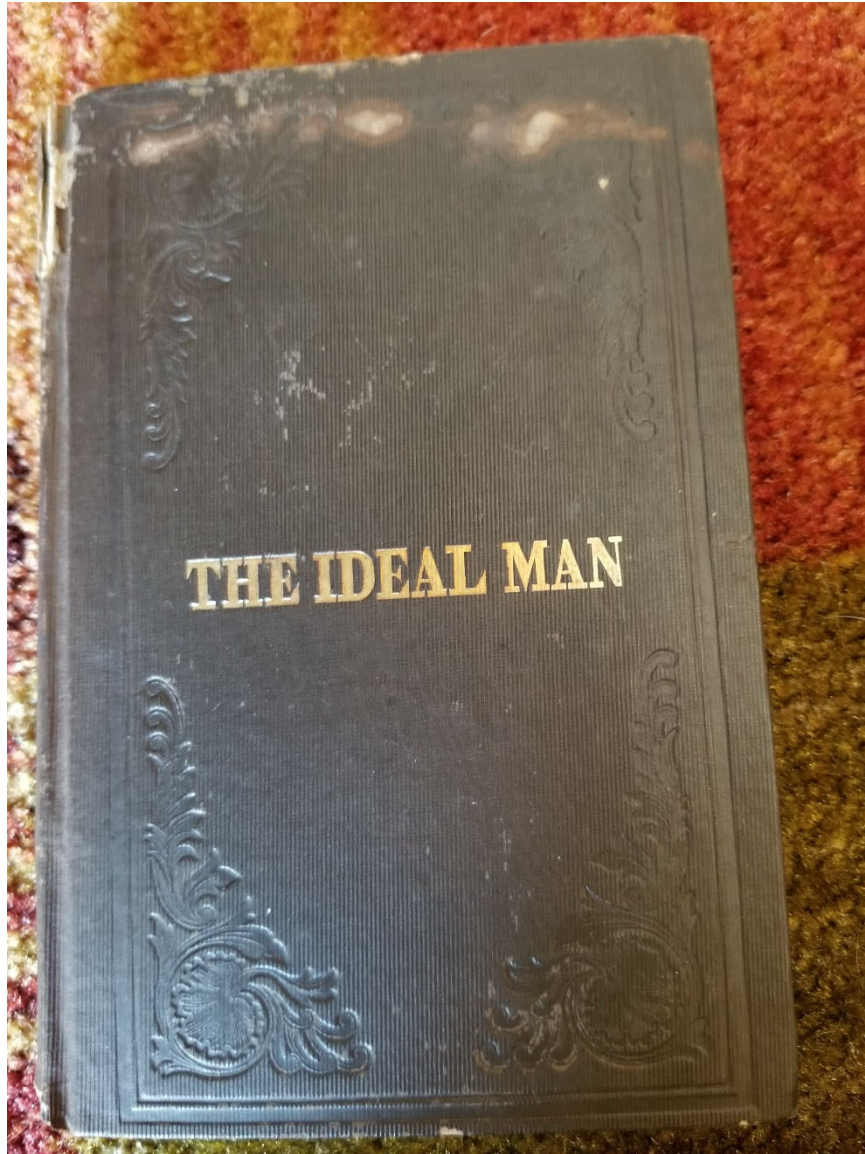
"When Wierzbicki moved to California he briefly worked as a photographer. Below is the only known work from his San Francisco studio in a New York collection.



#### California

No. of Lot	Date	Grantor	Grantee	Estate How Conveyed.
671	June 26, 1847	Hyde, Alcalde	F. P. Wierzbicki	Grant on Petition
672	June 26, 1847	Hyde, Alcalde	F. P. Wierzbicki	Grant on Petition
4	June 26, 1847	Hyde, Alcalde	F. P. Wierzbicki	Grant on Petition

1848



1848

In 1848 Wierzbicki sent Vallejo a copy of his work entitled THE IDEAL MAN

Widger (Benj.), 1847, Co. I, N.Y. Vol. (v. 499). Wierzbicki (Felix P.), 1847, Co. H, ditto; a Polish physician and author; owner of lots and participant in a political meeting at S.F. '47. v. 455. In '48 he sends Gen. Vallejo a copy of his work entitled *The Ideal Man*. He was also the author of *California as It is and as It may be, or A Guide to the Gold Region*, S.F., 1849, 8vo, 60 pp., published in 2 editions by Washington Bartlett (mayor of S.F. as I write, in '85), and the 1st book ever printed in this city. Dr W. died at S. F. in '60. Wiggins (Wm), 1840, nat. of N.Y., who crossed the plains from

New England Academy and later wrote books. *The Ideal Man* — *The Philosophical Treatise Between Two Friends Upon The beautiful, The Good, and the True as Manifested in Actual Life* was followed by elementary books on French, Polish and German grammar.

Even while struggling to complete his medical education Felix remembered his suffering Motherland. On the 15th anniversary of

Drawn to Sonoma, Wierzbicki visited General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo at Lachryma Montis and was so charmed by the man that he pressed a copy of *The Ideal Man* on the general.

Then California changed forever: in January of 1848, gold was discovered. Wierzbicki, with nothing better to do, headed for the Mokelumne Hill diggings, freely indulging his love for and knowl-

## 1849

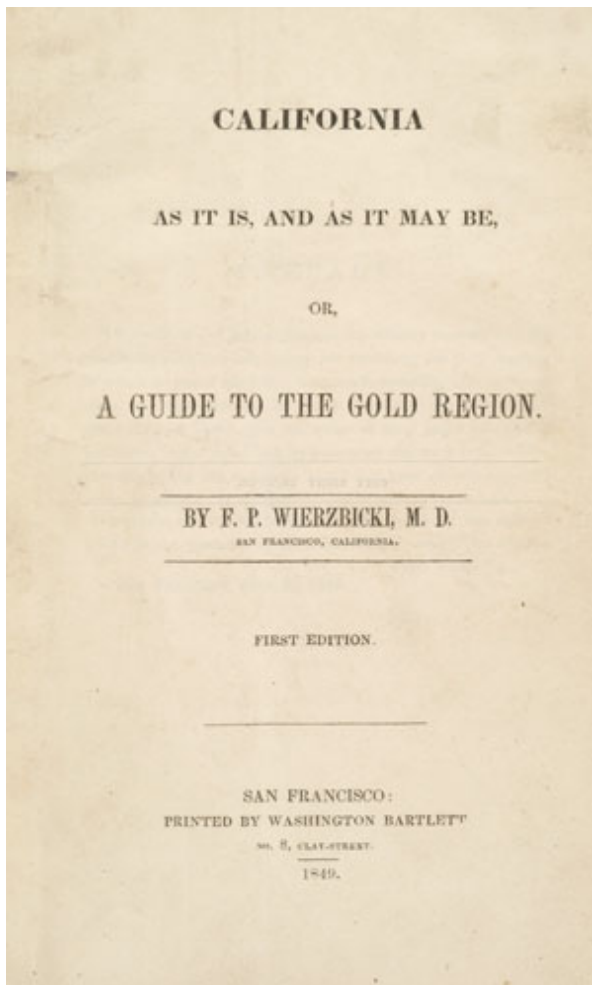
The preface to the first edition of Dr. Wierzbicki's book on California was dated September 30, 1849. The preface to the second edition, with some added pages, was dated December 30, of the same year. The printing was done by **Washington Bartlett, No. 8 Clay Street**. This was the **Washington Bartlett** who published the *Journal of Commerce* in 1850, and did the state printing for the first California legislature... probably his most notable achievement was the publication of **Dr. Wierzbicki's book in 1849, the first book in the English language to be printed in a State of California.**

..... according to military records, Wierzbicki entered into a contract with the Army on November 21, 1847 in Santa Barbara, to act as surgeon to approximately 69 soldiers for which he was to receive the sum of \$30.00 per month since, as the record states, "no other competent physician can be obtained at a lower rate." At that time he must have transferred to Company F under Colonel Lippett, which was immediately assigned to Santa Barbara upon its arrival in San Francisco.<sup>16</sup> His duties cannot have been too arduous, in fact they appear to have been almost a sinecure, for he managed to take a four-month journey throughout the state, write a book about his

[Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 64](#)

"He must have transferred to Company F"





## LOCAL MATTERS.

CALIFORNIA AS IT IS—AND AS IT MAY BE; OR, A GUIDE TO THE GOLD REGION. By F. P. Wierzbicki, M. D.

Thus reads the title page of a new book just issued in this city, which will prove, we think, an acceptable volume to the gold seeker on these shores, as well as a source of profit and some little celebrity to the author. The book is before us, very cleanly printed, fresh from the press of W. Bartlett, in Clay st., and is all it professes to be, with a good deal of able authorship thrown in. It is an octavo volume of sixty pages, and reviews the present condition of the country, its inhabitants, and future prospects of California, in a clear, concise and truthful manner. The author has for nearly three years resided in this "land o' cakes," and is consequently well capacitated to carry out the fruitful topic on which he engaged several months since; added to this, Dr. W. is a scholar who has acquired not only a professional name, but is a clever writer, a scientific gentleman, and a keen observer, as his book fully testifies. In another part of this morning's paper may be found extracts.

We predict for this work an extensive sale, for, as its preface states, the author "supplies the desideratum so much needed at this moment, and renders justice to California, that of late suffered a little in her reputation by the indiscretion of some of her friends."

*Philip Quilbet.* G. E. Pond, V, 62.

*Philokalist.* F. P. Wierzbicki, VI, 499.

*Philo Pacificus.* N. W. Weston, VI, 619.

"Lover of Beauty": Philokalist

A pen name of Felix Wierzbicki

The following extracts are taken from a forth-coming work on California by Dr. F. P. WIERZBICKI, supposing that by so doing we will give our readers the same pleasure we had in perusing it, not to mention the valuable information so much needed at present in regard to the country, and with which the work abounds.

*Advice to the Miner.*—On arriving in California, the gold hunters, if we may be pardoned the expression, first touch the shore at San Francisco: there they look for information how, and what are the means to get the precious pelf in large quantities, that they may not stay in the country too long; if they happen to have a letter to some one in the place, or if they meet an old friend, they put a thousand questions to him faster than he is able to answer them, evidently hurried by anxiety to lose no time and opportunity—Then they will tell him about their plans, how they are going to proceed in the business, what excellent machines they bring from New York, or some other place to work with, and so forth. The Americans, and

particularly those that call themselves, or are called Yankees *par excellence*, have the reputation of putting many questions to people they happen to fall in with; but on this occasion, they are more even than Yankees in pouring upon the stranger they meet their interrogatories. Now, we propose here to benefit both parties, the *annoying* and *annoyed*: we use the expression not to disguise the matter in obscure words, as it is really the plain fact, and anticipate all such questions by suitable information, upon which they can put at least some reliance, as we are neither a merchant, a trader or speculator in land or mines.

Neither San Francisco, the City of Sacramento, nor Stockton, are the places where reliable information is to be expected by one who proposes to go to the mines, as these places may be compared to the famous Dionius' ear, where the gentlest whisper is echoed a thousand times. Interest and ignorance frequently conspire in circulating extraordinary stories of success on very slender foundation, for some never have been in the mines at all, and have not the slightest idea of them, crediting every thing they hear; others have their trading post established on

some particular spot, where of course the mines *must be very rich*. The trading portion of the inhabitants of these places see gold brought in in large quantities, but they never trouble themselves with how much labor it is got out, who has failed and who has succeeded; in fine, they hear only of constant success. The fact is, that while there are many who succeed, there are others who scarcely pay their expenses. This should not be withheld from the knowledge of a new comer, since in case of failure in his mining expectations, he will be somewhat prepared for such an event and will be able to make the best of it.

The new comer on preparing himself to start for the mines, first should know what he wants for his expedition. Many start lumbered with baggage, imagining that they cannot and must not forego the indispensable comforts of life. All baggage is a burden and heavy expense to the miner; the cost and sometimes the difficulty of transportation forbid any such commodities, and besides, it will always impede his free movement, if he should want to go from place to place. He should have absolutely nothing more than what he can carry on a beast, if

he be able to have one, or if not, what he can shoulder himself. The less one brings to the mines, the better prospects of success he may have, and the more he is loaded with goods the more probably he will lose. This is the secret why all hard-working men who are inured to hard labors and strangers to enervating comforts, such as sailors or mechanics generally do very well. The miner needs good, stout and warm clothing, just enough in quantity for a change for the sake of cleanliness; a pair of stout boots or shoes, or both, two good blankets to sleep comfortable, warm and dry; his mining tools consisting of a pick-axe, spade, crowbar, a tinpan to wash gold in, a good sheath-knife and a trowel. The pick-axe and crowbar should be of a convenient size for handling and well steeled on the ends. A washing machine is used when there are two or more working in partnership. All the machines that have been brought here from the States are absolutely useless; they have proved profitable only to the venders there. The simple machine which here is in common use consists of three light boards three feet long and about ten inches high, put together in the shape of a cradle, with two rockers under-



neath.

We touch here upon a subject which if we allowed ourself to speak feelingly as a bachelor, we might be even eloquent, but in the position we find ourself as a writer, we are bound to speak philosophically only, viz: look upon the question before us with that cold eye of indifference or reserve which becomes impartial judgment. We will, therefore, say nothing of ourself; we will speak of the situation of others—we will try to advocate the cause of poor and forlorn bachelors, and persuade some of the respectable families that have daughters to settle in life, to come to California and build up the society, which without woman, is like an edifice built on sand.—Woman to society, is like a cement to the building of stone. The society here has no such a cement; its elements float to and fro upon the excited, turbulent, hurried life of

California immigrants, or rather, we should say, gold hunters, of all colors and shape, without any affinity. Such an aggregate or mass of human bodies have no soul, they are but a grand automaton whose springs Mem-

mon alone makes vibrate. Such is the society of San Francisco. But bring woman here and at once the proces of chrystalization, if we may be permitted the expression, will set in the society, by natural affinities of the human heart. There are here many worthy men who had the good luck to make a respectable competency, who would like to be married and settled in life, as honest and sensible men should do, but for want of the fair ones, they think only of getting away from here as soon as possible. Now the country by this state of society, loses much in many respects, besides losing many valuable inhabitants; and those who stay behind, intend to do the same when their turn comes.

This would not be so if some pleasant families from the States, rich, if in nothing else, in intelligent home-educated daughters; they could well provide for all their members here with much more ease, as yet, than in any portion of the Union. These families must be easy in their circumstances, so that they may be able to buy farming lands where they should settle, and by natural growth of landed property they would in a few years find themselves wealthy. This country is particularly fitted to that class of people who

once knew what is affluence, and who by a sudden turn of the wheel of fortune, found their means reduced to mediocrity. Life in California, although, must have its inconveniences, belonging to a thinly inhabited country, yet it cannot be compared to anything like life in the new settlements in the Western States or Oregon.

If people only were willing to take it easy, they would, ninety-nine out of a hundred, even like it. The population here is much more ready to take at once, or very soon, an agreeable and polished form, than could be expected in any other new country. There is something in the climate, we of course except San Francisco and the Valley of the Sacramento, which pre-disposes one to contentment; the sunny skies for so long a portion of the year, have an exhilarating influence upon the mind, and so much so, that we have known cases of Americans who are in the habit of carrying care-worn visages, in their country, acquire here a smiling and contented countenance, smoothed by placidity. Indeed, we would recommend as a remedy to all vinegar-faced, care-corroded gentry, that are well to do in the world, to come and settle in the rich valleys of California, where good health and azure skies can be enjoyed; where winter does not touch you with its freezing hand.

The people of this country of the Spanish race, possess a good deal of natural simplicity, but without that boorishness and grossness which characterize the lower orders of the Anglo-Saxon race; they are ignorant for want of opportunities of learning, but nature has not refused them capacities for acquiring knowledge: they are obliging in their disposition and hospitable; the latter virtue, however, already begins to undergo some changes since the arrival of so many foreigners; yet among themselves, or those upon whom they look favorably, they preserve their good old customs. Their women are, as a general rule, a healthy, robust, good-looking and hard-working set of beings; kindness is a universal feature among them; and if one had to choose between them and ordinary women of some civilized portions of the world, we do not hesitate to say that the California women would receive the preference, although in point of information they are deficient. The men are somewhat disposed to idleness; but this may be owing,

partly, to the facility with which they were in the habit of getting a living; and which now will have to undergo some modification. As a nation they are lively, and cannot be said to be vicious: in fine, they have sufficient good qualities to make up for their deficiencies. Such as these good people are, they do not offer much temptation to foreigners who have seen higher forms of civilization, to become commingled with them, but they have some good elements among them, and if respectable families from the States and Europe would come out here, the different races would soon be mixed up, and make, before many years, one of the most pleasant societies.—By such an immigration the country would gain vastly, because then the many young men who come over would here form their family ties and would bind their interest with the interest and welfare of the country. But as it is, the country unavoidably must receive a check in its progress, as it will be only inhabited by passers-by, so to speak, who will have no permanent interest in it.

CALIFORNIA AS IT IS—AND AS IT MAY BE; OR, A GUIDE TO THE GOLD REGION, By F. P. Wierzbicki, M. D. Thus reads the title page of a new book just issued in this city, which will prove, we think, an acceptable volume to the gold seeker on these shores, as well as a source of profit and some little celebrity to the author. The book is before us, very cleanly printed, fresh from the press of W. Bartlett, in Clay st., and is all it professes to be, with a good deal of able authorship thrown in. It is an octavo volume of sixty pages, and reviews the present condition of the country, its inhabitants, and future prospects of California, in a clear, concise and truthful manner. The author has for nearly three years resided in this "land o' cakes," and is consequently well capacitated to carry out the fruitful topic on which he engaged several months since; added to this, Dr. W. is a scholar who has acquired not only a professional name, but is a clever writer, a scientific gentleman, and a keen observer, as his book fully testifies. In another part of this morning's paper may be found extracts.

We predict for this work an extensive sale, for, as its preface states, the author "supplies the desideratum so much needed at this moment, and renders justice to California, that of late suffered a little in her reputation by the indiscretion of some of her friends."



*Weekly Pacific News*, 31 December 1849

Full review here:

<http://www.polishclubsf.org/31%20Dec%201849,%20Weekly%20Pacific%20News,%20Review%20of%20Wierzbicki's%20book.pdf>

EBOOK - FREE



0 Reviews

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**California Imprints: August  
1846-June 1851**

By Henry Raup Wagner

**Henry Raup Wagner**

**Henry Raup Wagner** (September 27, 1862 – March 27, 1957) was an American book collector, [bibliographer](#), [cartographer](#), historian, and business executive. He was the author of over 170 publications, including books and scholarly essays, mainly about the histories of the American frontier and the Spanish exploration and colonization of Mexico. He also assembled tens of thousands of books and manuscripts and formed several collections from them.

**WIERZBICKI, F. P.**

**California As It Is, And As It May Be, Or, A Guide To The Gold Region.** By F. P. Wierzbicki, M.D. San Francisco, California. **First Edition.**

San Francisco: Printed By Washington Bartlett, No. 8, Clay-Street. 1849.

8°, 60 pages and 1 unnumbered leaf of Errata at the end.

The leaf of title contains on the verso—copyright secured—and this is followed by a leaf with the Preface on the recto and the verso blank, the text beginning on page 5. The Preface is dated San Francisco, September 30, 1849, and signed—The Author. Pacific News reviews this from proof sheets Dec. 22 and Dec. 25 announces publication.

**California As It Is, And As It May Be, Or, A Guide To The Gold Region.** By F. P. Wierzbicki, M.D. San Francisco, California. **Second Edition.**

San Francisco: Printed By Washington Bartlett, No. 8, Clay-Street. 1849.

8°, [6], [5] to 76 pages and 1 unnumbered leaf of Errata at the end.

The title leaf and following leaf of Preface are the same as in the first edition with the exception of the different wording on the title page. Inserted after the leaf of Preface is an additional leaf

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**California As It Is, And As It May Be, Or, A Guide To The Gold Region.** By F. P. Wierzbicki, M.D. San Francisco, California. **Second Edition.**

San Francisco: Printed By Washington Bartlett, No. 8, Clay-Street. 1849.

8°, [6], [5] to 76 pages and 1 unnumbered leaf of Errata at the end.

The title leaf and following leaf of Preface are the same as in the first edition with the exception of the different wording on the title page. Inserted after the leaf of Preface is an additional leaf with Preface to the second edition on the recto and the verso blank. Pages 5-60 in the text are the same as in the **first edition**, the errata not having been corrected, but pages 61-76 are new, having a caption title, *The Natives of California*.

The Preface to the second edition is dated San Francisco December 30, 1849, signed—The Author—from which it appears likely that although the title page bears the date of 1849, this second edition did not appear until January, 1850. The errata were not corrected in the second edition, but the sheet was reprinted to add a few more errata in the new part added.

Still and Thomas bought the unsold edition from Wierzbicki. [Alta, February 22, 1850] and Still and Connor advertised in Sac. Transcript June 21 the second edition as just published. This book for a long time was, and still is, for that matter, generally stated to be the first book printed in San Francisco, or California. This

is not true in any sense, as Figueroa's Manifesto, printed in Monterey in 1835, was actually the first book printed in California. Nevertheless this is the first book of an original nature printed in California, in English, as the pamphlets printed before this were entirely of an official character. From this fact, and the interesting character of the contents, it is probably the most important book that was ever printed in California.

I have been able to find out very little about Dr. **Wierzbicki**. He was a Pole and a doctor and came to California as a member of the New York Volunteers, and according to Bancroft died in San Francisco, in 1860. He had probably lived in the east some time before coming to California.

Alex. Holinski in his "La Californie" Brussels, 1855, speaks about this book on page 113. He says that the Doctor received \$8,000 to \$10,000 out of the two editions, but it can now be bought for 25c. This was in the fall of 1850, and Still and Thomas, when they bought the edition from the Doctor in February, reduced the price from \$5. to \$1.50 and in June to 50c.

Bancroft Library, both editions.

Came to California as a member of the New York Volunteers

### A New Work upon California.

We have just been favored with an opportunity of looking over the proof sheets of a small volume, which, as we understand, is to be published here in a day or two, upon the condition and prospects of this country. It is entitled "*California as it is and as it may be, or a Guide to the Gold Region,*" and is the production of Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki, some of whose views as previously published, upon the character and structure of the Gold Region, we recently laid before our readers. Dr. Wierzbicki is we believe favorably known in the States as an occasional contributor to some of the scientific Reviews. He

It has been well established that *California* was the first book to be published in the English language in the State of California. The evidence is incontrovertible; from 1860 to the present the book has been consistently and authoritatively credited as such.<sup>29</sup> It has en-

[Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 68](#)

1850: Dr. FP Wierzbicki, San Jose, California (Bought property in San Jose in 1850)



[Back](#)

**ARRIVALS AT HOTELS.**

**ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, Aug. 14.**—John B. Frisbie, Benicia; Mr Wedder, New York; H. S. Young, do; Q. S. Barker, do; S. R. R. Throckmorton, do; Dr. Deyerle, U. S. A.; Lieut. Davidson and servant, U. S. A.; Wm. Stetson, Benicia; B. C. Whitney, do; Johd T. Little, Coloma; E. B. Bunezan, Sacramento City; D. M. Shepherd, Marysville; Dr. F. Wierzbicki, San Jose; Hunter Davidson, U. S. N.

**WAVERLY HOUSE, August 14.**—A. S. Bonnell, Sacramento; Thos. Child, do; Chas. B. Hazletine, San Francisco; Benj. P. Hazletine do; Jerome Rice, Sacramento; J. Little, do; W. S. Dyer, do.

**NEW WORK ON CALIFORNIA, FOR \$1 50.**—STILL & THOMAS having purchased of Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki the whole edition of his work, entitled "California as it is, and as it may be; or, a Guide to the Gold Regions," have reduced the price to one dollar and fifty cents. Every person arriving in the country should have one; they are in form for persons to mail to their friends in the States. For sale only at STILL & THOMAS' newspaper and periodical depot. 27-12

In San Francisco, at the St. Francis Hotel, in **Aug. 1850**

Unclaimed Letters in the San Francisco Post Office for 3 months

Wierzbicki, John  
 D2 Weirbecki, Dr F P

**BENTON, Joseph Augustine** (1818-1892). *California as she was: as she is: as she is to be. A Discourse Delivered at the First Church of Christ, in Sixth Street, Sacramento City; on the Occasion of the Annual Thanksgiving, November 30, 1850.* Sacramento: Placer Times Press, 1850.

8. (238 x 146 mm). Original pinkish printed wrappers (a few small nicks, splitting along central fold); quarter morocco slipcase.

FIRST EDITION OF WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE **THE EARLIEST PAMPHLET PRINTED IN SACRAMENTO**. PRESENTATION COPY, inscribed on the front wrapper: "With the Author's regards." **"Benton's 'California' is in effect the Wierzbicki of 1850.** [F.A. [sic] Wierzbicki's *California as it is* appeared in 1849, printed by Washington Barlett in 1849.] Part One describes the pastoral California that was. Part Two tells of the wild and turbulent days of '49. Part Three envisions the future" (Eberstadt 115:184). The Eberstadt catalogue states that the copy they offered was "one of two located copies of the Second book [the first of an original nature and the first to bear an imprint] printed in Sacramento." RARE: the last copy to appear in American Book Prices Current was sold at Butterfields, 14 February 1985. *California Imprints* 96; Cowan (1933), p.48; Cowan (1951), p.16.

**Transcript of the Thanksgiving Sermon of Rev. J.A. Benton, 1850:**

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=ST18501225.2.8&srpos=4&dliiv=none&e=-----185-en--20--1--txt-txIN-Benton+%22thanksgiving+sermon%22-----1>

**BENTON, JOSEPH AUGUSTINE** (1818-1892). *CALIFORNIA AS SHE WAS: AS SHE IS: AS SHE IS TO BE. A DISCOURSE DELIVERED AT THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN SIXTH STREET, SACRAMENTO CITY; ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 30, 1850.* SACRAMENTO: PLACER TIMES PRESS, 1850. **Price Realized : \$14,100**

The first Thanksgiving day ever observed in California was on November 30, 1850. On that day J. A. Benton, pastor of the Congregational Church (known as the First Church of Christ), preached the sermon on "**California as she was, as she is, and as she is to be.**"

NOTE.—In connection with the first library it is interesting to note an extract from a letter on file in the California State Library. The letter written from Monterey, Alta California, and dated, March 1, 1850, says, "The people here are about to order 700 or 800 volumes of books for a public library. They have collected \$1,200 for the purpose."

This letter was written by Joseph A. Benton, who came to California in 1849 and lived here until his death in 1892. He was pastor of the Sacramento Congregational Church from 1849 to 1863. He was one of the founders of the College of California, was a professor in the Pacific Theological Seminary in Oakland from 1863-1892 and edited the Congregational publication "The Pacific" during that period as well as during the earlier years of 1851-55. Mr. Benton is the author of that early and now rare California pamphlet "**California—as she was, as she is and as she will be,**" which was a printed copy of his Thanksgiving address delivered November 30, 1850. (This is believed to be the first pamphlet published in Sacramento.)

The letter, from which the above extract regarding the Monterey library is quoted, was written while Mr Benton was on a trip to Monterey for his health.—Editor.

### **BENTON, REV. J. A.**

**California As she was: as she is: as she is to be. A Thanksgiving Sermon, Delivered At Sacramento City. By Rev. J. A. Benton.**

[Cover title, regular title follows:]

**California As She Was: As She Is: As She Is To Be. A Discourse Delivered at the First Church of Christ, in Sixth Street, Sacramento City; On The Occasion Of The Annual Thanksgiving. November 30, 1850. By Rev. J. A. Benton. Placer Times Press. . . . Sacramento City: 1850.**

8°, title, leaf containing correspondence between the Committee and Benton requesting the publication of his discourse, pages 5-16 of Sermon.

First notice in Sacramento Transcript Dec. 23, which states a few copies unsold are still on hand.

This pamphlet has always been asserted to be the first one published in Sacramento. Nevertheless there was proof in Plumbe's "Settlers and Land Speculators of Sacramento" published in New York in April, 1851, that Plumbe had published a pamphlet in Sacramento about the first of May, 1850. Recently this pamphlet was discovered and turned out to be the "Faithful Translation Of the Papers Respecting the Grant Made By Governor Alvarado To Mr. J. A. Sutter."

Conv in mv collection.

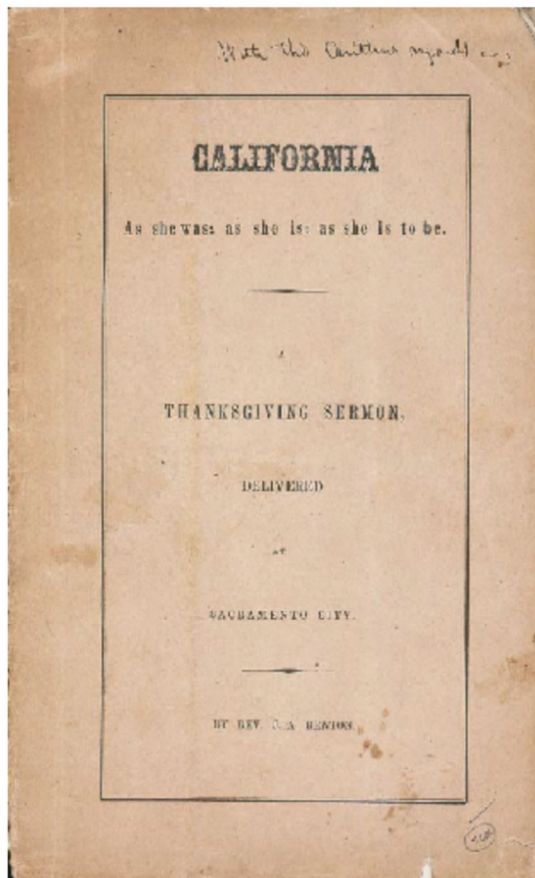
As a preacher Benton fused theological and promotional expectations. His Sermon *California As She Was: As She Is: As She Is to Be*, delivered on Thanksgiving 1850, construed events in the light of a special providential plan. There was present confusion, Benton admitted, but the Gold Rush brought to California a Protestant order to finish the work of the padres. Serving God's plan, the Gold Rush had within itself the seeds of its own correction. "For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land," Benton read to his congregation from Deuteronomy 8:7-10, "a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper."

It was this precious gift of California, Benton urged, this providential promise of sanctified abundance, which gave hope, which enabled men to look beyond present grubbing. Not for nothing had God held this Pacific land hidden from men's eyes until a worthy people might possess

Sacramento Transcript, Volume 2, Number 53, 25 December 1850 — „ California-A« She Was.  
[ARTICLE]

**California—As She Was.**  
We have already alluded in terms of  
We have already alluded in terms of  
praise to the Thanksgiving Sermon of Rev.  
J. A. Benton. The following is an extract  
entitled "California—As She Was," which  
cannot but prove interesting to our readers,  
and valuable for reference :

AN ABLE DISCOURSE.—We have heretofore inadvertently omitted to notice the discourse delivered by the Rev. Mr. Benton, in this city on **thanksgiving** day. By request it was furnished for publication, and a few copies of it still remain on hand unsold. We have read the discourse with feelings of pleasure. California is treated in those points of view well calculated to make a discourse highly entertaining and instructive. The historical reference is a concise and brief review of the past; the present condition of our State, truthful, precise; whilst what California is to be receives a marked degree of attention from the author; and he chronicles his prophecies with regard to her future eminence with a boldness which evinces sincerity.





**A CALIFORNIA BOOK.**—The second edition of "California as it, and as it may be, or a Guide to the Gold Regions," by **Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki**, of San Francisco, with additional pages, entitled "Medical Observations upon the People and Country." Every new comer ought to possess one of these books, as the information he gains from it will save him much time and expense. Price only \$1 For sale at all the Bookstores, and by the Publishers.

**STILL & CONNER,**  
Corner of Clay and Dupont sts.

je22 1w

**NEW WORK ON CALIFORNIA,** just Published and for Sale at this office—"California As it Is, and As it May Be; or, A Guide to the Gold Region." By **F. P. Wierzbicki**, M. D. A work that should be in the hands of every person visiting the country for whatever purpose. Also for sale at **J. H. Still's News Room and Periodical Depot**, Pike street, near the Post Office. Price \$3.

7-13

**A GUIDE TO THE GOLD REGION.**—"California as it is and as it may be or a guide to the Gold Region" is the first book ever published in California. It appeared last December, and was written by **Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki**. We have just received from Messrs. Still & Conner of San Francisco a copy of its second edition. The work before us is considerably enlarged. It contains some twenty more pages than the first edition,—Among the additions we noticed a long and very interesting chapter on "The natives of California," in which the Dr. gives a description of their appearance, social intercourse, and habits. We also notice a chapter entitled medical observations upon the people and the country, which was not in the first edition. The Dr. has long been a resident in California, and is thoroughly capable of entering largely into descriptions of its resources and early condition. He has thrown into the work before us an interest which recommends it not only to the reading community but to the miners and to those who have just arrived and are in want of information.

We notice some few errors in the chapter

We notice some few errors in the chapter entitled "The Towns of California." The Dr. must recollect that this is a rapidly changing country, and that many of the towns he mentions have a name but are long since forgotten. There are no such towns to our knowledge as Boston and Suisun. We doubt if Springfield could be hunted up. A Sacramento City of a hundred houses would be hard to find in California. And one who had read of all the towns in California in the Doctor's book, might stumble in quick succession upon a dozen or two respectable towns between Nicolaus and Marysville, and be scared out of his wits for fear he was a Munchausen. We suggest a slight alteration in this chapter for the third edition.

1851: San Jose, California

**ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE**—Felix P. Wierzbicki has assigned to me all his property, in trust, for the benefit of his creditors. All persons indebted to him, and all persons having claims against him, are requested to present their accounts and have the same settled, with me, at my residence near the Coyote River, 2 miles distant from this city, or at the office of Messrs. Crosby, Tingley & Co. on First st.  
THEO. MCKOUES, Assignee.  
San Jose, June 16, 1851. je21-14

**Assignee's Notice.**—Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern, that on the 22d of November, 1851, I shall resign my trust as assignee of Felix P. Wierzbicki, and reconvey and transfer to said Wierzbicki all the property remaining in my hands, which was assigned and conveyed to me by him for the benefit of his creditors.  
THEO M. KOUES, Assignee,  
San Jose, Nov. 18, 1851. nov21-2

SEE NEXT PAGE

**BY VIRTUE** of two several instruments in writing, made by **Felix P. Wierzbichi** to **Lorenzo Hubbard**, one bearing date the twelfth day of September, 1850, to secure the payment of the sum of one thousand dollars, and interest at the rate of six per cent per month, recorded in the office of the Recorder of Santa Clara County, in book A of mortgages, page 117, and the other bearing date the twenty-first day of December, 1850, to secure the payment of the sum of eight hundred dollars, and interest at six per cent per month, and recorded in said Recorder's office, in book A of mortgages, page 188, the following lands and premises will be sold for cash, at public auction, on the 28th day of June, 1851, at 12 o'clock, M., in front of the Court House, in the City of San Jose, to pay the amount then due for principal and interest on said two instruments.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate in the north part of the City of San Jose, containing fifty varas by one hundred, being the only lot I own there at this date. Also, a certain tract or parcel of land situate in the county aforesaid, and known on the plan or plot of the public lands of the Pueblo de San Jose de Gpe, made by James D. Hutton, Esq., as numbers (57 and 58) fifty-seven and fifty-eight, purporting to contain five hundred acres each, more or less.

je14 1 LORENZO HUBBARD.

**San Jose property**, Santa Clara County

1852 Census (O Veersbicks [sic], age 35, Male, Doctor, Poland, NY)  
 "Last residence listed as New York"

Monterey Co., California

45 | *O. Wierzbichi* | 35 | M | " | Doctor | Poland | New York

Possibly at this gathering in San Francisco, in 1854

Daily Alta California, Volume 5, Number 336, 5 December 1854 -

**The 29th of November.**

Wednesday last being the 25th anniversary of the Polish Revolution, a few gentlemen, Polish exiles, now in this city, met together in the evening to celebrate that great and memorable event by a quiet, sociable dinner.

1855

Honorably Discharged Nov. 24, 1855.

**Aleksander Holyński** (Alexander Holinski): speaks of *California As It is, And As It May Be*:

Alex. Holinski in his "La Californie" Brussels, 1855, speaks about this book on page 113. He says that the Doctor received \$8,000 to \$10,000 out of the two editions, but it can now be bought for 25c. This was in the fall of 1850, and Still and Thomas, when they bought the edition from the Doctor in February, reduced the price from \$5. to \$1.50 and in June to 50c.  
 Bancroft Library, both editions.



1856: San Francisco, California

Wierzbicki E. P. physician, rear 228 Wash s  
Waverly court [cor Ca

FIRST QUARTER 1856—Continued.

To warrants paid in the 1st quarter of 1856, viz:

On account of the Military Department.

J. K. Bailey.....	
F P Wierzbicki.....	58 29
S. R. Seay.....	

San Francisco County Medico-Chirurgical Association

Established and recorded, August, 1855. President, Dr. F. S. Cooper. Vice-President, Dr. C. A. Kirkpatrick. Secretary, Dr. A. Atkinson. Treasurer, Dr. J. W. W. Gordon. Corresponding Secretary, Dr. J. M. Williamson. Censors and Trustees, Doctors J. M. Tewksbury, F. P. Wierzbicki, J. M. Sharkey, J. L. Webster, W. Hewer and I. Rowell.

E. L. Brittingham	J. Fogarty
John Parker,	P. Duggan
Charles Cochran	J. Dryan
F P Wierzbicki	C. Huber
W. Hopkins	John Green
M. Wm. Pifer	S. F. Elliott

"Address to the democracy of San Francisco"

Lectures of the Mercantile Library Association.  
ORDER OF THE COURSE.  
Dec. 15, Monday—By Judge H. J. Thornton. Subject—The internal connection and mutual dependence of the various occupations of man.  
Dec. 22, Monday—By Dr. F. P. Weirzbecki, Subject—The beautiful in poetry and the poetic in the beautiful.

The Beautiful in Poetry and the Poetic in the Beautiful

In 1856 Wierzbicki was invited to participate in the formation of the California Medical Society and must have been held in some regard for he was appointed as a member of the Standing Committee on Practical Medicine, Medical Literature and Hygiene. He was one of the invited speakers at the initial meeting and was instrumental in establishing the Society's journal, to which he con-

[Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 67](#)

Invited to participate in the formation of the CALIFORNIA MEDICAL SOCIETY

LECTURES ON SPIRITUALISM—By F. P. WIERZBICKI, M. D.—The Doctor will review the lectures recently delivered in this city on the subject, and give his own views of the so called Spiritual Manifestations. The first of the course of two lectures to take place at the Musical Hall, Bush street, on Monday evening, the 7th instant, at 7 o'clock. Tickets Fifty Cents—to be had at Little & Co's Drug Store, at the Bookstore of Leonard & Strong, Montgomery street, and at the Hall the evening of the Lecture. A5-21

Lectures on Spiritualism... Wierzbicki... will... give his own views of the so called Spiritual Manifestations... at the Music Hall, Bush Street

[C420]

Wierzbicki, Felix Paul. "Medical Observations Upon the People & Country." The Californians 13:1(1996): 49-52.

Wierzbicki, F. P., M. D., California as it is, and as it may be, 2d edition only, contains a chapter on "Medical Observations upon the People and Country," pp. 71-76, San Francisco, 1849.

[Back](#)

**Proceedings of the State Medical Society.**

The State Medical Society met at 11 o'clock yesterday morning, pursuant to adjournment, President Keene in the chair.

The minutes not having been written up, a recess was taken for half an hour.

After recess the minutes were read, corrected and approved.

The President, claiming the indulgence of the Society should the same not in all respects prove acceptable, announced the following as comprising the several standing committees:

On the Practice of Medicine, Medical Literature and Hygiene—Drs. Whitney, Oatman, Spencer, J. M. Frey and Wierzbicki.

**LECTURES ON SPIRITUALISM.**—It will be seen by an advertisement in another column that Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki, will deliver two lectures at Musical Hall, commencing to-morrow evening, in which he will review the recently delivered lectures on the subject of spiritualism, and give his own views in relation to the alleged phenomena. The Doctor is a gentleman of acknowledged ability and will doubtless impart some original ideas in his lectures.

**Lectures on Spiritualism**

**WIERZBICKI, F. P.** Essay on the History of Medicine. (California State Med. Jl., 1856-7, v. 1, p. 147.)

**Essay on the History of Medicine**

**State Medical Convention**

San Francisco—Drs. H. M. Gray, R. B. Cole, H. Gibbons, F. P. Wierzbike, J. M. Williamson, J. M. Tewksbury, J. P. Whitney, A. B. Stout, P. J. Reilly, A. Atkinson, E. S. Cooper, M. W. Pfeifer.

Motion withdrawn, and being subsequently renewed by Dr. Wiersbike, was negatived on division—ayes, 14; noes, 20.

**Public Meeting in San Francisco.**

An assemblage of our citizens on Tuesday evening last, called Mr. Nathan Spear to the chair—Messrs. Sherman and Pettet, secretaries. This was for the purpose of petitioning the President of the Union—protesting against the return of Col. J. C. Fremont in the capacity of Governor of the Californias, and adopting resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the citizens of San Francisco, in relation to the conduct of this officer, while in this country.

**Protesting the return of Fremont as Governor (SEE 1847 ENTRY)**

A committee of eight, composed of Messrs. Ward, O'Farrel, Thomson, Semple, Lease, Leidesdorff, Murphy and Gerraro, were next appointed, to prepare and produce, reliable instances of his misconduct, for which, together with heretofore stated grievances, it was resolved to petition the President of the United States, protesting against the return of Col. J. C. Fremont in the capacity of Governor. The committee to call a meeting and report at discretion.



**Centennial Celebration of the Birth-Day of Lafayette—Meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Association.**

At a meeting of the San Francisco Medico-Chirurgical Association, held on the 31st ult., the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

**MEDICAL.**—At a meeting of the San Francisco County Medico-Chirurgical Association, held on Friday evening, the following named gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: Dr. R. B. Cole, President; Dr. J. M. Williamson, Vice President; Dr. P. J. Reilly, Recording Secretary; Dr. E. S. Cooper, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. A. Atkinson, Treasurer; Drs. J. M. Tewkesbury, M. W. Fifer, J. L. Webster, F. P. Wierzbicki and Wm. Hewer, Censors.

Resolved, That the President be requested to present, in the name of this Association, the name of Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki to the consideration of the said Committee of Arrangements, as a gentleman whose literary ability and reputation is a sufficient guarantee that if he accept the task, as an orator on that day, it will be performed with credit to himself and the occasion, as well as the gratification of his friends and the public.

**SAN FRANCISCO CITY AND COUNTY CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.**—At a meeting of the Medical Chirurgical Society, held last evening at the City Hall, the following gentlemen were appointed as alternate delegates to represent the Society at the State Medical Convention, to be holden at Sacramento on Wednesday next: Doctors James M. Sharkey, F. P. Wierzbicki, Charles Kirkpatrick, L. Hubbard and J. C. Ealef.

To show the spirit which pervades the profession in the new State on the shores of the Pacific, the following is quoted from the leading article from the pen of Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki:

“Lord Bacon’s opinion, notwithstanding the lapse of time, has not lost its justness. ‘Medicine,’ says he, ‘is a science which hath been more professed than labored, and yet more labored than advanced; the labor having been rather in a circle than in progression.’

“And now, after the picture of the state of medicine we have made above, to what inferences must we come? Shall we be disheartened, and sit solemnly communing with despair, hoping for no ray of light in the midst of this chaotic darkness? No, certainly not. Let us buckle on the armor of patience and perseverance, and let us labor on, and light will come as soon as a creative hand shall touch the confused elements. The different theories and sects in medicine that had their day, and passed, or those that at this time divide the opinion of professional men and of an intelligent public, have succeeded in proportion



to the truth of the dogmas contained; for never an error starts in pursuit of popularity, except it be draped in the cloak of truth, or something that resembles it.

“They all contain more or less truth, and it is the office of the philosophic physician to discern it. Homeopathy, Hydropathy, Chrono-thermal system, and Allopathy, apparently so contradictory to each other, yet they all teach a partial truth, which, to be intelligible, must not be expressed in their respective jargon, but in the language of nature, that is always consistent and in harmony with itself.

“There is a law that underlies all those systems, and which is the measure of their success; but that law has not yet been expressed in a general manner, so that the facts collected by opposing parties should range themselves accordingly in spite even of their patrons. But the time is approaching, perhaps even before many years elapse, when that law will be spoken out, and the system of medicine that will be built up will be neither *Homeopathic*, *Chrono-thermal*, nor *Allopathic*, but a truly **PHYSIOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE.**”

## College Journal of Medical Science - Volume 2 - Page 85



<https://books.google.com/books?id=xxhFAQAAMAAJ>

1857 - Read - More editions

To show the spirit which pervades the profession in the new State on the shores of the Pacific, the following is quoted from the leading article from the pen of Dr. F. P. Wierzbickie: “Lord Bacon’s opinion, notwithstanding the lapse of time, has not ...

1858

Wierbricker F. P. weighman, U. S. B. Mint

Warren O. P. Market nr Third  
Wiersbickie, 52 Montgomery  
White Elijah Larkin bet Ge

physician

### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Just issued from the publishing department of this office, the “Transactions of the Third Session of the Medical Society of the State of California.”

Dr. Wiersbickie called attention to the fact that proper attention had not been paid to a paper on hygiene, presented by him last year. Dr. Gibbons stated that the papers had accidentally been mislaid. On motion, Dr. Gibbon’s explanation was pronounced satisfactory.

, 13 October 1858

how reasonably hope for its conclusion before the end of the seventh.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—We are indebted to Dr. A. B. Stout, President of the State Medical Society, for a copy of the transactions of the third sessions of the Association, held in this city in February last. The transactions form a neat octavo volume of 168 pages. It contains several essays read before the sessions—essays which would do credit to any similar scientific association. Among these may be mentioned Dr. Logan’s papers on the climate and epidemic diseases of the State; Dr. H. Gibbons’ paper on the meteorology of San Francisco; Dr. Stout’s essay on tracheotomy; Dr. J. P. Whitney’s papers on practice, etc.; Dr. F. P. Wierzbickie on the poison oak, etc.

DOCTORS’ STUFF.—We have received the F. S. Medical Journal for October. It contains accounts of some wonderful pathological observations, not suited for publication in a family paper.

M. D." "Report on Medical Education, by S. M. Mouser, M. D.;" on "Poison Oak, by F. P. Wierzbicki, M. D.;" "Report on an Analysis in a case of

[Rhus Toxicodendron: by F. P. Wierzbicki, M. D.....146](#)

1859

JACKSON  
Wierzbicki F. P. weighman, U. S. B. Mint, dwl  
Kearny nr Dupont

[Bielawski was at 71 Montgomery]

1859, says that the book's title illustrates the early Californians' interest in factual rather than exaggerated accounts of their own region, while the book itself marks the beginning of publishing in San Francisco.<sup>21</sup> It was translated into German the same year and [Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 66](#)

Ultimately what had begun as a hobby during his visits to the gold mines became an extension of his everyday work. In the 1858, 1859 and 1860 San Francisco directories we find him listed as a weighman in the U. S. Mint (his name being spelled variously as Wierbricker, Wiersbickie, and Wierzbicki). In the *State Register and Yearbook of Facts* for the year 1857, published in San Francisco, he is listed under physicians and as a member of the San Francisco Medical Society and the San Francisco County Medical and [Polish American Studies - Volume 42 - Page 68](#)

1860

Wierzbicki Felix P. weighman U. S. B. Mint,  
dwl Kearny nr Dupont

Listed in 1860 Census (Assayer) Living on California Street

F. P. Wierzbicki	35	"	Assayer	600	Poland
------------------	----	---	---------	-----	--------

Name: F P Wierzbicki

Age in  
1860: 35

Birth Year: abt 1825

Birthplace: Poland

Home in  
1860: San Francisco District 6, San Francisco, California

Felix Paul Wierzbicki letter, San Francisco, California, to Mrs. A. C. L. Botta, April 22, 1860.

**Summary** **Wierzbicki** laments the removal of the Ferdinand C. Ewer family to New York City; discusses his own meager income and failed enterprises; praises the Ewer household, and mentions the family's departure on the John L. Stephens; mentions gifts brought to Botta by Ewer, and **Wierzbicki's** forthcoming letter of introduction to Botta; her planned young ladies' class, her eye condition, and her forthcoming book, probably Handbook of Universal Literature. **Wierzbicki** asks Botta's help in retrieving his scrapbook, which may have some relation to his California As It Is, And As It May Be.

**Note** Born in Charniawce, Poland, Felix Paul **Wierzbicki** came to the United States in 1834, earned a medical degree, and after service in the Mexican War, arrived in San Francisco in 1847. Joining the Gold Rush, he mined in **Mokelumne Hill**, then returned to San Francisco, practicing medicine and surgery. He wrote *California As It Is, And As It May Be* (1849), the first **original work in English** written and published in California. He became acquainted with Ferdinand Ewer in late 1849, asking Ewer to publish a review in the *Pacific News*. **Botta was known for hosting weekly gatherings of writers and artists** in her New York City home.

**Cite As:** Felix Paul **Wierzbicki** letter, San Francisco, California, to Mrs. A. C. L. Botta, April 22, 1860 (SF MSS 11/38), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.  
Purchase.

**Subject** [Botta, Anne C. Lynch, 1815-1891 \(Anne Charlotte Lynch\), correspondent](#)  
[Ewer family.](#)  
[Ewer, Ferdinand C., 1826-1883 \(Ferdinand Cartwright\)](#)

Born about 1815. Died 25 or **26** December 1860

Co. "H."

DAVIS, BENJAMIN B.	.. .. .	at Merced, Cal.,	—, 1880.
LEDDY, MICHAEL	.. .. .	Mendocino County,	—, 18—.
VEDDER, PETER G.	.. .. .	at Manaque, Nic.,	—, 1856.
<b>WIERZBICKIE, FELIX P.</b>	.. .. .	at San Francisco,	Dec. 25, 1860.

**Gg Hh**  
G g H h

**Company H**



In San Francisco, Dec. 26th, **FELIX P. WIERZBICKI**,  
a native of Poland, aged about 40 years.



1996

Death of the author, Dr. F. Wierzbicki “**Highly esteemed by all who knew him**”  
Dec. 26, 1860 in San Francisco

Dr. Wierzbicki's **headstone was restored by the Polish community** and is free to view at  
**San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio (1 Lincoln Blvd., Section OS, Row 58, Site 2).**

Born 1 January 1815, **Czerniawka** (part of Romanowka, owned by the Lubomirski family), Volhynia,  
**Russian-occupied Poland** (now Chernyavka, Ukraine)

**Reportedly the oldest preserved Polish tombstone on the West Coast** of the United States

**Polish Combatant's Circle #49 in San Francisco**  
**restored the headstone in 1996**

Effort spearheaded by **Krystyna Chciuk**

Wierzbicki achieved no glamor, apparently never married and had no progeny, yet what he achieved did not perish with him. In New York he was an unrelenting campaigner for Poland, and whatever his opinions may have been he did not hesitate to express them. He consistently espoused the cause of liberty, and his writings on the history of Poland have as much relevance to events today as they had to the events of his time.

"WIERBICKI--Dec. 26 [1860] - Dr. F.P. WIERBICKI, author of the first book printed in California, died in San Francisco." Source: *Sacramento Daily Union*, 1 Jan 1861. Transcribed by Betty Loose.

Dec 26—**Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki**, author of the first book printed in California, died in San Francisco.

In this city, Dec 26th, of congestion of the lungs, Dr. Felix P. Wierzbicki, late of the U. S. Branch Mint in this city, a native of Poland, aged about 40 years.

Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 20, Number 3043, 27 December 1860 - Custody—Squatter Riot—Ship Telegraphed. [ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

**Death of a Polish Exile—Fatal Accident—Supposed Murderers of the Johnson Family in Custody—Squatter Riot—Ship Telegraphed.**

SAN FRANCISCO, December 26th.

Doctor Wiersbecki, a **Polish exile**, well known in Sacramento, died this morning from congestion of the lungs. He was implicated in the last **Polish** revolt—some twenty-five years ago. He was author of the first book on the California mines. He was a teacher of French in Amherst College, Massachusetts, fifteen years ago. His age is about forty-three.

1<sup>st</sup> book on California mines

DEATH OF AN EXILE.—Dr. **Wiersbicki**, a Polish exile who died at the Bay on Wednesday, was implicated in the revolt of his countrymen twenty-five years ago. It is said he wrote the first book on the California mines. Fifteen years ago, he taught French in Amherst College, Mass.

Taught French at Amherst College, MA

27 Dr Felix P. Wierzbicki 43

Poland Cong of Lungs 3 53 Chain 4

Died of congestion of the lungs ("Cong. of Lungs")



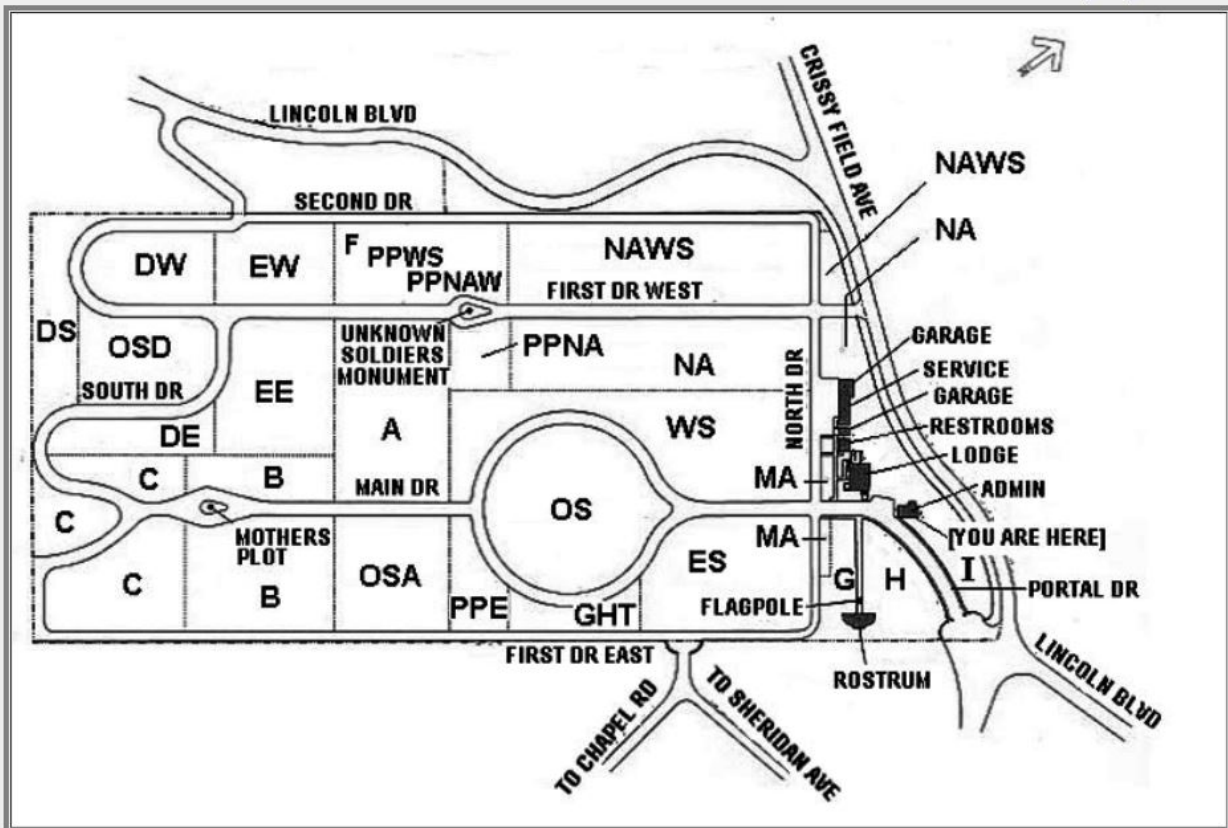
DEATH OF DR. WIERZBICKI.—Dr. Wierzbicki, a Polish exile, well known to our citizens, died of congestion of the lungs, at 2 o'clock this morning, at his residence on Stockton street, after a short illness. He was one of the Polish refugees that were sent to the United States by the Austrian Government, after the failure of the last Polish revolt. Full of the patriotic ardor with which the entire noblesse of Poland was inspired, the young Wierzbicki, then a mere boy, escaped from his school and joined a regiment in the field. After two battles, the column to which he belonged was forced to retire into Austria. He was for awhile engaged in teaching. A large class of Amherst (Mass.) College graduates will remember him as their teacher in French in the year 1839, and his French Grammar was used as the text-book in that institution. He came to California in 1848, and the first book published concerning the mines of this State was written by him, and printed in this city. He was, at the time of his death, connected with the Assayer's department of our Mint, and was well known as a gentleman of scientific attainments, of integrity and worth. He was about 45 years old.

Steamer Bulletin, 1 January 1861

DEATH OF DR. WIERZBICKI. — Dr. Wierzbicki, of the U. S. Branch Mint, died at 2 o'clock A.M. at his residence on California Street. Dr. W. was well known throughout the United States as the author of the first work on California's mines, he having arrived here in 1848, and made, on the discovery of gold, the treatment of precious metals his special study. He was a Pole by birth, and was, at an early age, exiled on account of his revolutionary action. He was the author of several elementary works on the French, German and Polish tongues, as well as a host of scientific subjects. Dr. W., like most medical men, had a hobby as a specific, and that hobby accelerated his death. For some weeks past, he had been confined to his room with congestion of the lungs, but it appears he had little confidence in his own profession, for he did not take any of the prescriptions his medical adviser left. Strange to say, he was gradually recovering when he conceived that a vapor bath, a favorite Muscovite remedy, would cure him. He tried one, without the knowledge of his physician, and was remonstrated with. On Monday, in all the rain, he went out and took a vapor bath, and on returning home he took an emetic. He gradually sank under this severe ordeal, and died as stated. As a scientific man, Dr. W. had few superiors.<sup>31</sup>

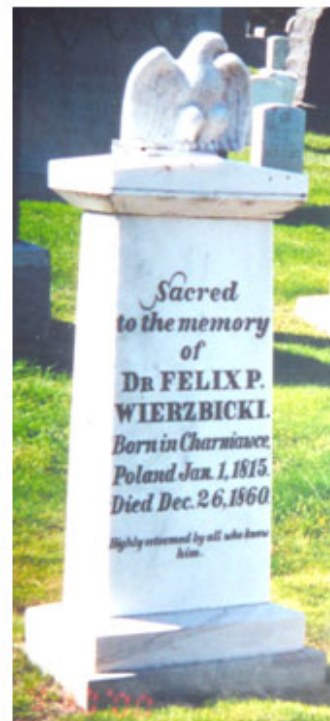
DEATH OF DR. WIERZBICKI.—Dr. Wierzbicki, of the U. S. Branch Mint, died at 2 o'clock A. M., at his residence on California street. Dr. W. was well known throughout the United States as the author of the first work on California's mines, he having arrived here in 1848, and made, on the discovery of gold, the treatment of precious metals his especial study. He was a Pole by birth, and was, at an early age, exiled on account of his revolutionary action. He was the author of several elementary works on the French, German, and Polish tongues, as well as a host of scientific subjects. Dr. W., like most medical men, had a hobby as a specific, and that hobby accelerated his death. For some weeks past, he had been confined to his room with congestion of the lungs, but it appears he had little confidence in his own profession, for he did not take any of the prescriptions his medical adviser left. Strange to say, he was gradually recovering when he conceived that a vapor bath, a favorite Muscovite remedy, would cure him. He tried one, without the knowledge of his physician, and was remonstrated with. On Monday, in all the rain, he went out and took a vapor bath, and on returning home he took an emetic. He gradually sank under this severe ordeal, and died as stated. As a scientific man, Dr. W. had few superiors.





WIERZBICKI, FELIX PAUL

Section OS Row 58 Site 2



Wierzbicki [sic], Dr. Felix P. Poland 1860 43 Lone Mt., Gr. 3, T. 55, chain plot

MOVED TO:



## Service to Honor Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki

Memorial services will be held Saturday, May 30, for Dr. Felix P. Wierzbicki, a pioneer Californian, who died in 1860. The services will be held at 11 a. m. at Laurel Hill Cemetery under the auspices of the American Polish Citizen Club, Inc. Dr. Wierzbicki was noted as a doctor, philosopher and humanitarian. He was one of the founders of the State Medical Society and was the author of a number of works.



*Sacred*  
*to the memory*

*of*

**DR FELIX P.  
WIERZBICKI.**

*Born in Charniawce,  
Poland. Jan. 1, 1815.*

*Died Dec. 26, 1860.*

*Highly esteemed by all who knew  
him.*

JAMES R. ROCHE  
DEPT. U.S. ARMY  
JUNE 7, 1830  
DEC. 1, 1895.





Czerniowce



WIERZBICKI  
US ARMY  
03/21/1940

FELIX

PAUL  
ASSISTANT SURGEON

12/26/1860

OS 58 2

<sup>11</sup> Alexander Rytel, "Dr. Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki-first geographer and medical historian of California," *Polish Medical Science and History Bulletin*, vol. 5 (July, 1962), pp. 83-88.

## FIRST geographer and medical historian of California

### 1. WIERZBICKI, FELIX PAUL

ASSISTANT SURGEON US ARMY

DATE OF DEATH: 12/26/1860

BURIED AT: SECTION OS ROW 58 SITE 2 [View Map](#)

[SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL CEMETERY](#)

1 LINCOLN BLVD PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129

(650) 589-7737

## Section OS, Row 58 Site 2

His biographer, Lyman, wrote, "The book is the epitome of truth." It made, Lyman wrote, \$8,000 for the printer and nothing for Wierzbicki.

The Polish physician continued his practice during the 1850s in San Francisco. He did not believe in the primitive drugs of the day, such as calomel.

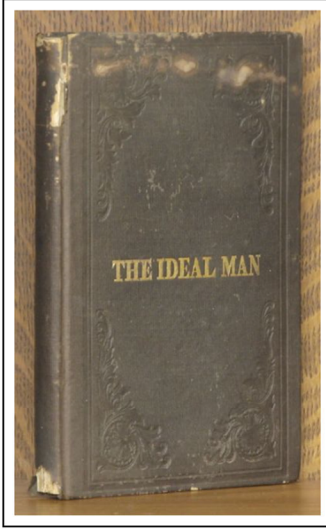
His discipline was that water was the nearest thing to a cure-all, and when he became ill in 1860 he ignored the counsel of fellow physicians and tried to heal himself. His treatment included rigorous bathing.

He died Dec. 26, 1860.

1866

NEW AND OLD LITERATURE.—We have received from the Antiquarian Bookstore of I. N. Choynski copies of Frank Leslie's New Monthly, The People, (new,) Comic Monthly, Literary Companion, New York Clipper, The Right Way, Police Gazette, and Sunday Mercury, received by yesterday's steamer. We have also received from the same source a curious old pamphlet, entitled "California as it is, and as it may be: or, A Guide to the Gold Region," by F. P. Wiersbicki, San Francisco, California. Printed by Washington Bartlett, No. 8 Clay street, 1849. To this old document we shall refer again hereafter.

The Ideal Man (**Dr. Robert Hare** was a spiritualist, a topic of interest to Dr. Wierzbicki)  
Rare. Available for review by appointment (Polish Club SF)



A Philokalist [Felix Paul **Wierzbicki**]

**THE IDEAL MAN; A Conversation Between Two Friends, upon the Beautiful, the Good, and the True, as Manifested in Actual Life by a Philokalist**

Boston: E.P. Peabody, 1842. First edition. Hardcover. Very Good. 5 7 1/4 inches high. Publisher's brown embossed cloth, gilt title on cover. 160 pages + errata. Signed by author on title page; "Mrs. Robt Hare with respects of the author". Condition of the book is Very Good; Small piece of cloth missing at bottom of spine, also at top of front joint (see photo), 3 light stains at top of front cover and 2 to rear cover, text is very clean, pages are not toned or foxed, there are a few small stains in the margins, not affecting text, pages 85 & 87 are missing about 1/2 inch at bottom margin (no loss of text), seems to have been printed on short paper, binding is tight. Published as by "A Philokalist" (lover of Beauty), credited to Wierzbicki (Dict. of Anonymous and Pseudonymous English Literature, 1928 Vol. 3 Page 128), also his name is on the copyright page. Felix Paul Wierzbicki (1815-1860) is best known as the author of "California As It Is and As It May Be" 1849. Mrs. Robt Hare (nee Harriett Clark) was the wife of Robert Hare (1781-1858) Philadelphia chemist and author. Philosophy Rare  
RGR

[Bookseller: *Andre Strong Bookseller*]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Hare\\_\(chemist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Hare_(chemist))

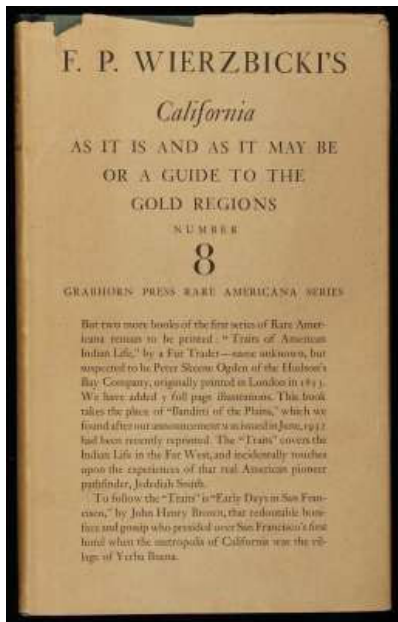
**Vital records**

**Wierzbicki, Dr. Felix P -1860**  
[Born in Poland, died in San Francisco. Died  
or buried Dec. 26, 1860, aged 43 years]

Buried in Lone Mountain cemetery, San Francisco,  
Cal., grave no. 3, tier 55, chain plot.

733. **Wierzbicki, F.P.** *California As It Is & As It May Be; or, A Guide to the Gold Region.* Intro. by George D. Lyman. Illus. by Valenti Angelo. Half cloth & boards, paper spine label. 1 of 500 copies. San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1933. Cowan p.682 (1st ed.); Howes W405 - Referring to the very rare first edition, San Francisco 1849, Howes writes "First California-printed English book of an original nature; this, with its highly interesting content, renders it the most important and prized of all books printed there, with the possible exception of Figueroa's Manifesto." Fine condition. (60/90).





306. **WIERZBICKI, F. P.** *California As It Is & As It May Be: or, a Guide to the Gold Region.* 101pp. plus a 30 page introduction. Illustrated by Valenti Angelo. Cloth-backed pictorial boards, printed paper spine label. A very fine copy with the elusive printed dust jacket (jacket slightly chipped at top edge and with two short tears). San Francisco: The Grabhorn Press, 1933. **\$225.**

One of 500 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Reprint of the first book written and published in California. The author begins with an overall description of California and its history. He then goes on to give a general discourse on the mines and sage advice to miners, covering such practical subjects as a miner's outfit, the rocker, provisions, mining companies, horses, prospecting methods, health, winter in the mines, and descriptions of the mining camps. He then continues with a description of San Francisco and its harbor, noting the lack of women. Includes an excellent introduction by George D. Lyman along with fine illustrations by Valenti Angelo. [Kuntz: 678-d].

[Doctor Felix P Wierbicki](#)

California, San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records, 1835-1931

Name:

Event Type:

Event Date:

Event Place:

Gender:

Age:

Marital Status:

Birth Date:

Birthplace:

Death Date:

Birth Year (Estimated):

Funeral Home:

Funeral Place:

Obituary Included:

Father's Name:

Mother's Name:

Record Type:

Source Reference:

Digital Folder Number:

Image Number:

birth: Poland

burial: 27 Dec 1860 San Francisco, San Francisco, California

Doctor Felix P Wierbicki

Burial

27 Dec 1860

San Francisco, San Francisco, California

Male

43

Poland

N. Gray & Co. Funeral Records

San Francisco, San Francisco, California

Register

p. 1-335, 1854-1861

4195048

00405

## Notice to Creditors.

### ESTATE OF FELIX P. WIERZBICKI, deceased.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Administrator of the above named estate, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against Felix P. Wierzbicki, deceased, to exhibit the same, with the necessary vouchers, within ten months from the first publication of this notice to the undersigned, at his office, southwest corner of Commercial and Montgomery streets.

A. HOLLUB,  
Administrator of the Estate of Felix P. Wierzbicki,  
deceased.

Dated San Francisco Jan. 7, 1861.

jal9-law6w

A. Hollub: Hollub was a Freemason  
Board of Trustees, Toland Medical College

#### ADOLPHUS HOLLUB.

Adolphus Hollub, a prominent insurance man of this city, died at his home, 2218 Post street, on Sunday. Deceased came to California in 1850 and settled down in business at Shasta with a Mr. Isaacs. He then had a commission in Siberia, and subsequently came to this city and established an oil business at the corner of Front and Washington streets, under the firm name of A. Hollub & Co. He moved to California street some years later, and continued in the same line until 1878, when he became an insurance agent and general appraiser, which position he retained up to the time of his death. He was a native of Bohemia, 70 years of age.



Mr. Hollub was President of the Temple Emanu-El for many years. In Masonry he had carried himself very honorably. He was Past Master of Pacific Lodge, No. 136, and Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of California in 1852 of the Free and Accepted Masons; Past High Priest, San Francisco Chapter, No. 1; Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter of California, in 1860-61; Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter of California, in 1862, Royal Arch Masons; Past Thrice Illustrious Master, California Council, No. 2; First Grand Illustrious Master at institution of Grand Council in 1860; Deputy Grand Master, Grand Council in 1861; Grand Master in Grand Council of 1862, Royal and Select Masons.

1863

[BIBLIOGRAFA CALIFORNICA \[ARTICLE\]](#)

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SDU18630625.2.4&srpos=16&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-wierzbicki----->

Sacramento Daily Union 25 June 1863

1849.—California, as she is and may be. By F. P. Wierzbicki. Pamphlet of 35 pages, 12mo. San Francisco, 1849.

of before the next grand jury. For sleeping on the sidewalk was five dollars or five days.

OK.—Since Monday morning last the Fourth of July Sub-Committees on Finance have been diligently canvassing the subscriptions, and we hear that they get with very fair success. At the close of this evening the question of celebrating the Fourth of July celebration will probably be settled. The report of the Finance Committee will have very much to do with it.

WENT.—One Michael Ahren, while working in the granite quarries at Rocklin, yesterday, sustained a fracture of the left leg, the large rock having fallen on the limb. He was brought to this city on the train and proceeded by steamer to San Francisco, where he has relatives.

THURSDAY OF JULY.—An adjourned meeting of the Fourth of July General Committee was held this evening at 8 o'clock, in the Court room. For reasons which are obvious to all, every member is desired to roll call.

MRS.—A regular meeting of the Sacramento Verein will be held this evening at 8 o'clock. As there will be an election of officers a general and prompt attendance of members is desired.

AN OLD CALIFORNIA PUBLICATION.—The proprietor of the Antiquarian Book Store, on Second street, has exhumed from his stores a work entitled "California As It Is, and As It May Be; or, A Guide to the Gold Region," by F. P. Wierzbicki, M. D., printed in San Francisco, by Washington Bartlett, in 1849. Among the promising towns spoken of in the work, and of which no traces are now left, are—Boston, situated in the forks of the American and Sacramento Rivers, across the American from Sacramento; Washington nine miles above Sacramento; Springfield, on the Feather River; San Joaquin, on the river of that name. South San Francisco, located three miles south of the city of San Francisco, the author prophesies will be a great city. He prophesies that the Bay of Monterey, for commercial purposes, will be second only to the Bay of San Francisco, and that the mines will benefit it amazingly—a prophecy not a long way from fulfilment. At the present time this little book is interesting, as showing the ideas entertained of the country in early days by intelligent men, and the anticipations they formed in relation to it.—[Call.

1869

SF Chron

## OFFICIAL LIST OF LETTERS

Remainng in the Post Office,  
October 6, 1869.

Wierzbicki Dr  
Wierzbicki Dr

1871

### Pioneer Literature.

Passing along Nassau street a day or two since, on a table in front of a second-hand bookstore I noticed among a lot of books offered for ten cents each, a California publication, the first issue in book form, I think, of your Sacramento press. It was the volume of sketches by Old Block, illustrated by Nahl, and published by J. Anthony & Co. in 1855. I purchased the stray for the sake of Auld Lang Syne, and many friends have expressed their admiration at the excellence of the illustrations. The first California book written for publication in California, it may interest some of your readers to know, was a small volume of notes and observations on life in California by a Polish gentleman, Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki, who I believe came to California with Stevenson's regiment in 1847, and in 1849-50 prepared a book, the introductory chapters of which were published. Either the frequent fires in San Francisco, or the lack of funds, prevented the maturing of the author's plans, and I am not aware that the book ever saw daylight.

JON QUILL.

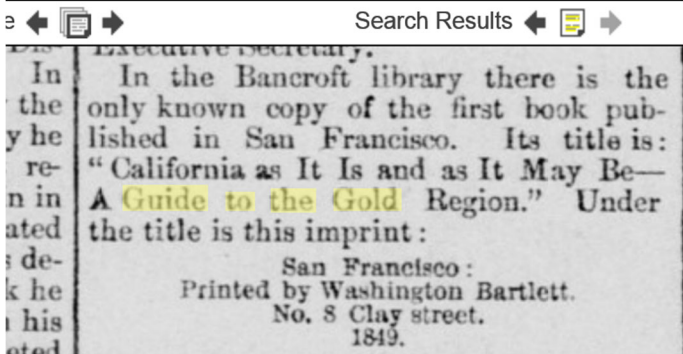


1883

ment of a then far-off country. What a contrast between the California of 1846 and that of 1882!—then an almost unknown and sparsely settled Mexican territory; now one of the constellation of States, teeming with populous cities and enterprising, industrious, law-abiding citizens—then it required 180 days to make the tedious, tiresome voyage between New York and San Francisco, now it is performed with ease and pleasure in six days and a few hours.

1887

14 September 1887



In the **Bancroft library** ... the only known copy of the **first book** published in San Francisco

1888 **Bret Harte**

### Overland Monthly and Out West Magazine

<https://books.google.com/books?id=w4dAAQAAMAAJ>

Bret Harte - 1888 - West (U.S.)

It was a thin pamphlet, entitled "California as It Is and as It May Be," and was written by Dr. F. P. Wierbicki. It was poorly written, without illustration, and badly ...

<https://books.google.com/books?id=w4dAAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA340&dq=%22Bret+Harte%22+%22Poorly+written%22+%22without+illustration%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjB8N2r6pPLAhUD2GMKHYP6BncQ6AEIJTAA#v=onepage&q=%22Bret%20Harte%22%20%22Poorly%20written%22%20%22without%20illustration%22&f=false>

In 1849 the first book printed in California was issued from the press of Washington Bartlett, San Francisco. It was a thin pamphlet, entitled "California as It Is and as It May Be," and was written by Dr. F. P. Wierbicki. It was poorly written, without illustration, and badly gotten up. But the information it contained was fairly true, and if it erred in the rosiness of view, the defect was not apparent to the miners of those days. Bad as it was it went through two editions before more attractive and more reliable data took its place.

1898 *SF Chronicle*

F. P. Wierzbicki, M. D., issued, in San Francisco, in 1849, a pamphlet entitled "California as It Was and as It May Be, or a Guide to the Gold Region." Washington Bartlett, who became Mayor of this city and Governor of the State, was the printer. Dr. Wierzbicki did not view mining operations here cheerfully. In his first paper he stated that he "mentioned not the gold washings that are being worked so successfully at present, for as respects their duration and the development of the industry of the country they scarcely deserve the attention of the economist, be they ever so rich, as all other mines are more beneficent in their influence to the progress of a country than gold mines." He expatiated on the other riches of this land. In his second and third chapters the doctor gave advice to newcomers, remarking:

Heretofore we have heard nothing but "Arabian Nights" stories about the gold region, drawn, if possible, with more vivid gold in California, rush headlong, sometimes leaving very good business and comfortable living, cannot but rue the day if they put their sole dependence upon their success in the mines.

Neither San Francisco, the city of Sacramento nor Stockton are the places where reliable information is to be expected by one who proposes to go to the mines, as those places may be compared to the famous Dyonius' ear, where the gentlest whisper is re-echoed a thousand times. The trading portion of the inhabitants of these places see gold brought in in large quantities, but they never trouble themselves with how much labor it is got out, who has failed and who has succeeded. In fine, they hear only of constant success.

**1905** *San Francisco Chronicle*

fly leaf. There is also a copy of Wierzbicki's "California As It Is and As It May Be," the first book printed in California in English. The imprint is 1849.

1933

**Wierzbicki Felix Paul.** California as it is & as it may be; or, A guide to the gold region. With an introduction by George D. Lyman. San Francisco: Grabhorn press. xxix, [3], 100, [4] p. illus. (Rare Americana series. no. 8). [1061]

Two editions published in 1849, the prefaces dated "Sept. 30, 1849" and "December 30, 1849", respectively. The present edition follows the text of the second edition.

Bibliography for the study of the life of F. P. **Wierzbicki** M.D., compiled by George D. Lyman: p. [102]-[104].

The book and the  
doctor

Lyman, George D.

### The book and the doctor

by George D. Lyman.

Published **1933** by [\[G.D. Lyman\]](#) in [San Francisco](#).

Written in [English](#).

#### Edition Notes

Heller, E.R. Grabhorn Press, 198.

"Bibliography for the study of the life of F.P. Wierzbicki, M.D.": p.

[xxxii]-[xxxiii]

Concerns Felix Paul Wierzbicki and his book: California as it is and as it may be, or, A guide to the gold region. 1849.

"Privately printed."

Also published as an introd. to the 1933 Grabhorn Press ed. of Wierzbicki's book, for which it was written.

"Twenty-five copies presented to members of the Roxburgh Club, and twenty-five copies to members of the Vicious Circle"--Heller.

338. **[Grabhorn Press] WIERZBICKI, Felix Paul** (1815-1860). *California as it is & as it may be or, a Guide to the Gold Region... with an Introduction by George D. Lyman. Drawings by Valenti Angelo.* San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1933. ¶ Series: Rare Americana, 8. 8vo. xxix, [3], 100, [4] pp. Illustrations, bibliog. Original quarter black cloth, printed paper spine label, green decorative boards. Some offsetting to endleaf, else near fine.

§ 28

LIMITED EDITION of 500 copies, with drawings by Valenti Angelo. "Felix Paul Wierzbicki (1815-1860) left his native Poland after participating in the doomed revolution of 1830. He made his way to America where he received a medical degree and practiced in Providence, Rhode Island. When the Mexican War broke out, Wierzbicki enlisted in the Army and was sent to California. Wierzbicki left the Army shortly after reaching the West and practiced medicine until the discovery of gold drew him to prospecting on Mokelumne Hill. In 1849, he returned to San Francisco, where he spent the rest of his life. California as it is (1849) was the first English-language book printed in California. It is a valuable guide to California for prospective settlers that includes a survey of agriculture, hints on gold mining, a guide to San Francisco, and a chapter on California's Hispanic residents and Native American tribes." – WorldCat. The present edition follows the text of the second edition. *Grabhorn Press Bibliography* 186; Howes W-405; Kurutz 678d; Rocq 16155; Sabin 103893 [note]; Zamorano 80 [#79 note].

500 copies printed



F. P. WIERZBICKI'S

*California*

AS IT IS AND AS IT MAY BE  
OR A GUIDE TO THE  
GOLD REGIONS

NUMBER

8

GRABHORN PRESS RARE AMERICANA SERIES

But two more books of the first series of Rare Americana remain to be printed: "Traits of American Indian Life," by a Fur Trader—name unknown, but suspected to be Peter Skeene Ogden of the Hudson's Bay Company, originally printed in London in 1853. We have added 5 full page illustrations. This book takes the place of "Banditti of the Plains," which we found after our announcement was issued in June, 1932 had been recently reprinted. The "Traits" covers the Indian Life in the Far West, and incidentally touches upon the experiences of that real American pioneer pathfinder, Jedediah Smith.

To follow the "Traits" is "Early Days in San Francisco," by John Henry Brown, that redoubtable boniface and gossip who presided over San Francisco's first hotel when the metropolis of California was the village of Yerba Buena.

1911 *Sacramento Union*, Number 16, 9 March 1911 "First book printed in San Francisco"

**HOME PRODUCTS  
IN STATE LIBRARY**

"Made in California" Exhibit  
Commands Attention.

State Librarian Gillis is showing as a part of his book exhibit a case of books labeled "Made in California." The volumes are of interest from two different points of view. Historically it is important to know what was the first book printed in the state. It is a thin little volume and in good state of preservation, though it has suffered at the hands of the binder who left little margin. Monterey has the honor of being printed on its title page and the year is 1835. Naturally, it is in Spanish and bears the title "Manifiesto a la Republica Mejicana."

The first book printed in San Francisco saw the light in the memorable year 1849. It is altogether fitting that this first book should be on the subject "California as it is." The author, Felix Paul Wierzbecki, thus early shows the true California spirit.

Aside from historical reasons the case of books made in California is interesting as an example of what we are doing in the way of printing as an art. The "Sonnets of de Heredia," translated by Edward R. Taylor, of San Francisco and printed at the press of E. D. Taylor is a volume very creditable in every respect. "Bird notes afield." by Keeler, done at the Tomoye Press in 1907 is another book which speaks well for the ability of the Western craftsmen and that little magazine, The Lark, which in its day attracted much attention from a wide field is an inimitable example of both book making and fun.

1936 (30 May), Polish Hall, 3040 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, San Francisco

1936, honors for Dr. F.P. Wierzbicki

<h3>Marshal Pilsudski Will Be Honored</h3> <p>Marshal Josef Pilsudski, late Polish leader, will be honored tonight at 7 o'clock in the Polish Club Hall, 3040 Twenty-second street. The program, prepared by local members of the Polish-American colony, includes: Mrs. Katarzyna Pick, Otto G. Kuklinski, Miss Rose Bezek and B. Gilewicz.</p> <p>This morning at 11 o'clock the colony will hold memorial services at the grave of Dr. Felix Wierzbicki in the Laurel Hill Pioneers Cemetery, Bush street and Presidio avenue.</p>	<h3>Service to Honor Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki</h3> <p>Memorial services will be held Saturday, May 30, for Dr. Felix Wierzbicki, a pioneer Californian, who died in 1860. The services will be held at 11 a. m. at Laurel Hill Cemetery under the auspices of the American Polish Citizen Club, Inc. Dr. Wierzbicki was noted as a doctor, philosopher and humanitarian. He was one of the founders of the State Medical Society and was the author of a number of works.</p>
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#### Laurel Hill Pioneers Cemetery

Name:	Felix P. Wierzebecki
Death Date:	1860
Death Place:	San Francisco, CA
Type Practice:	Allopath
Death Notice Info:	San Francisco, CA, May 24, 1936, San Francisco Chronicle

SEE NEXT PAGE



# Tales of the Old Southwest



By--  
*Winifred  
Davidson*

California as it is and as it may be, or, "A Guide to the Gold Region," by Dr. Felix Paul Wierzbicki, published by Washington Bartlett, San Francisco, 1849 was the "first book written in English to be printed north of Mexico and west of the Rockies," according to proof brought forward by George D. Lyman in his introduction to the Grabhorn 1933 edition of this curious work.

Dr. Wierzbicki, says the legend on his tombstone in the "Chain Plot" on Lone Mountain near San Francisco, was born in Charnawce, Poland, Jan. 1, 1815, and died in San Francisco, Dec. 26, 1862. Further researches by Dr. Lyman show that before he was 20 the author was a political exile from his native land and had found his way to America. Friends here helped him to complete his medical training and in 1846 he was practicing in Providence, R. I. "He was against drugging his patients with calomel and quinine as was the fashion of the day," says Dr. Lyman. "Thus he became a pioneer of the principles of hydropathy. All pathological conditions, he claimed, would respond to water internally administered or externally applied."

## GIVES GOLD "FORMULA"

The Polish physician - patriot joined Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson's regiment bound west, "to free and colonize California." He asked for the post of regimental surgeon but had to be content with that of hospital steward. Aboard the transport *Loo Choo* he arrived in San Francisco late in March, 1847. As a private citizen he was one of the first to respond to news of the discovery of gold some months later. Though he found no gold he enjoyed his experiences among the diggings; his miners' formula given out at the time being still quoted:

"Wherever there is oak, there is apt to be gold. When oak gives place to pine, quartz pinches out."

Wierzbicki's book is written in English. Joseph Conrad was therefore not the first Pole to master the language in which he felt he could best say what he had to say to the world. In his preface to the first edition he explains that his residence in the country gave him confidence "in the belief that by presenting this work to the public . . . he supplies the desideratum so much needed at this moment, and renders justice to California that of

late suffered a little in her reputation by the indiscretion of some of her friends."

"The Country and its Resources," "The Gold Region," "Advice to the Miner," "Towns of California," "The Natives of California," "Medical Observations Upon the People and Country," to which are added directions for entering the harbor of San Francisco and regulations for the harbor and port of San Francisco make up the contents of the little volume, which had a remarkable sale from the first.

"Extracts," says Dr. Lyman, "appear in the columns of all leading California papers . . . It brings to its publisher some \$8000 to \$10,000. Of course Wierzbicki profits very little by it. But the doctor is happy. He has told the truth about California. And truth, says the philosopher, shall make us free."

In his comments on living conditions here the doctor writes that he

believes that sunny skies through so long a portion of the year have an exhilarating influence upon the mind. "We have known cases of Americans," he declares, "who were in the habit of carrying care-worn visages in their own country, acquire here smiling and contented countenances, smoothed by placidity. Indeed, we would recommend, as a medicine, to all vinegar-faced, care-corroded gentry, that are well to do in the world, to come and settle in the rich valleys of California, where good health and azure skies can be enjoyed; where winter does not touch you with its freezing hand."

## DESCRIBES VIRTUES

He describes the virtues and vices of Californians, and is one of the first writers to note that to tell of a Californian without describing his horse, at least in part, would be to leave the picture unfinished. This description leads him into a rather long dissertation upon western dress and domestic arrangements. Medicine is of course uppermost in his mind and he closes this chapter with the statement that no epidemics are known here and the Californians have no particular diseases. "If they die, they fall a victim to a disease that might carry off any man under any climate." Of course he is talking here of the old-time Californians who lived pretty close to nature most of the time.

Farther along he states, "California has never seen so great a mortality as within the last year, among the strangers who arrived recently . . ." Mary blamed this mortality upon the climate, but the doctor stoutly maintains that it is not California's fault but their own. They brought their diseases with them and attempted to cure them by old-fashioned means in use in other places. There is always a class of people who find fault with any climate, because it is the most convenient cloak for their follies, or an excuse for their ignorance in the art of preserving health."

Dr. Lyman's closing paragraph to his introduction is particularly apt, I think:

"The chains (about the grave) have rusted and fallen away. The sand shroud has returned to cover his headstone; but the birds still sing on Lone Mountain—and in his book Felix Paul Wierzbicki, the Polish exile, and physician, defies the passing of time."

## A Daily Thought

By DELMAR L. DYBESON

"And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and harbergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal." — 2 Chronicles 26:14, 15a.

Noting the havoc wrought by explosives and blasts today, one might easily wish the process had never been invented. Yet, by a series of explosions powerful motors propel us smoothly by sea, land, and air. The same process performs much labor that once was drudging. The process of explosion may be used for either destructive or constructive purposes depending upon the human ingenuity behind them.

1940: Transfer of the remains of Dr. Wierzbicki; ceremony by the **United Polish Societies**

Still another ceremony was presented by the United Polish Societies. This was marked by removal of the body of Dr. **Felix Paul Wierzbicki**, a distinguished California pioneer from Poland, from Laurel Hill Cemetery to a place of honor in Presidio National Cemetery.

Special services likewise were held in many of the city's churches.

ORIGINAL

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Q. M. C. Form No. 14  
Revised Oct. 6, 1928

Re-- Interment in the SAN FRANCISCO National Cemetery  
To--*The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.*

NAME	RANK	COMPANY	REGIMENT OR VESSEL			DIVISION, IF WORLD WAR SOLDIER
			Number	State	Arm	
Wierzbicki, Felix P. (White)	Assistant Surgeon				U.S. Army	

DATE OF DEATH			DATE OF INTERMENT			GRAVE MARK		REMARKS Date of discharge and number of Pension Certificate, Disinterments, etc.
Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Section	Grave No.	
Dec.	26	1860	Mch.	21	1940	Off-icers	Gr. 2 Plot 58	Honorably Discharged Nov. 24, 1855. Disinterred from Laurel Hill Cemetery, San Francisco, Calif., and re-interred in the San Francisco Natl. Cem. Authority - Letter OQMG dated Aug. 6, 1936.

Shipping point for headstones: No. stone required.

*C. Kearney*  
C. Kearney Acting Superintendent.

(See Instructions on Reverse Side)

8-2550

FUNERAL RECORD

Call Received **M** Book No. **33** Page No. **175**  
 By **How** Prepared by **Mortuary or Res.**  
 From **Phone** Will Complete Arrangements  
 First Call Information by Details Arranged by

Full Name **Dr. Felix P. Wierzbicki (Removal)**

Place of Death  
 Home Address **If Non-Resident Give City or Town and State**

Have We Served This Family Previously?  
 How Did You Come To Us?

3. Sex 4. Color or Race 5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (Write the word)  
 5A. If married, widowed or divorced, name of husband or wife  
 6. Date of birth MONTH DAY YEAR  
 7. Age Yrs. Mos. Days If less than one day Hrs. Min.  
 8. Trade, profession or kind of work done as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc.  
 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silkmill, sawmill, bank, etc.  
 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) 11. Total years spent at this occupation  
 12. Birthplace (City or Town) State or Country  
 13. Name of Father  
 14. Birthplace (City or Town) State or Country  
 15. Maiden Name of Mother  
 16. Birthplace (City or Town) State or Country  
 17. A. City, Town or Rural District of Death Yrs. Mos. Days  
 B. In California Yrs. Mos. Days  
 C. In U. S. If of Foreign birth Yrs. Mos. Days  
 18. Informant (Signature) Address  
 19. Burial, Cremation or Removal **Burial National Cem. Presidio** (Write the words) Date **March 21, 1940**  
 20. Embalmer { License Signature  
 Funeral Director **N. Gray & Co.**  
 Address **1545 Divisadero Street**

22. Date of Death Month Day Year  
 23. Medical Certificate of Death I hereby certify that I attended Deceased from To That I last saw h alive on and that death occurred on the above stated date at the hour of M  
 24. Coroner's Certificate of Death I hereby certify that I took charge of the remains described above, held an inquest, autopsy or inquiry thereon, and from such action find that said deceased came to h..... death on the date stated above.  
 The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in the order of onset, were as follows: DATE OF ONSET  
 Other contributory causes of importance  
 If operation, date of Condition for which performed Was there an autopsy? Name laboratory test confirming diagnosis  
 25. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in the following: Accident, suicide or homicide Date of Injury Injured at { City or Town of County and State of  
 Did injury occur in home, industry or public place? Manner of Injury Nature of Injury  
 26. If disease/Injury related to occupation, specify  
 27. Signature Address PHYSICIAN, AUTOPSY SURGEON M. D.

Husband or Wife of  
 Father or Mother of

Son or Daughter of  
 Brother or Sister of

Member of **Removal from Laurel Hill Cemetery to National Cemetery-Presidio Thursday, March 21, 1940**

Date of Funeral Hour Weight  
 Funeral From Auspices of Length  
 Officiating Address Width  
 Ship To or From Depth  
 Accompanying Passenger Address Hair  
 Notify Eyes  
 Marks



'THIS WAS SAN FRANCISCO'

Oakland Tribune Sunday, April 15, 1962 EL-3

Author Compiles Reminiscences of a City

THIS WAS SAN FRANCISCO, compiled and edited by Oscar Lewis. David McKay Company, New York. 291 pages, \$5.95.

Reviewed by ARTHUR HAKEL  
San Francisco's story has been told often and well. Professional and amateur talents have been inspired through the years, and the fair city has never suffered long from literary neglect.

Consequently, that someone should come up with something genuinely fresh would not be a reasonable expectation.

Yet Oscar Lewis, who had already gone frequently to the well of western history, has succeeded in such an attempt.

Winnowing through a great mass of firsthand narratives of men and women who were there, Lewis has put together the most representative and descriptive of them into an exciting volume of life in San Francisco from its beginnings in 1776 to its near-finish in 1906.

Father Palou tells of arriving at the bay in June of 1776; Count Ryzanov writes of what he found when he and his



Drawing by Tribune artist Ray Marks

ship, the Juno, entered the port in the spring of 1806; a sailor from a British sloop-of-war keeps a journal of his visit in March 1813. Richard Henry Dana describes Christ-mas experiences in 1833. The reminiscences of John Henry Brown, the town's first

innkeeper, include an account of the first wedding to take place under American rule.

The discovery of gold and what it did to the economy of the little town is a fascinating excerpt from the recollections of the above-mentioned Mr. Brown, while quo-

tations from Gregory's Guide For California Travellers, published in New York in 1850 show how gold-madness had spanned the continent.

Among the many others cited are F. P. Wierzbicki, one of the town's first physicians; New York Tribune correspondent Bayard Taylor whose widely read book "Eldorado, Or Adventures in the Path of Empire" was published in 1850; Jessie Benton Fremont, wife of the Pathfinder; Helen Hunt Jackson, author of "Ramona"; British novelist Anthony Trollope; Bayard K. Taylor; Harriet Lane Levy and Will Irwin.

**EARLY NEWSPAPERS**  
Selections from The Alta California and other newspapers of the period are also of great interest.

Mr. Lewis has selected judiciously and tailored closely so that his pages are fully-saturated and free of waste.

"This Was San Francisco," subtitled, "Being First-hand Accounts of the Evolution of One of America's Favorite Cities," will be read with relish by all lovers of San Francisco and the Golden Gate area it graces.

Polish Immigrant Straightened Out Twisted Tales About Gold

By JOE STONE  
Staff Writer  
The San Diego Union

The author of the first book in the English language written and printed in California was a refugee Polish physician, Felix Paul Wierzbicki.

The book is "California As It Is and As It May Be, or: A Guide to the Gold Region." The first edition was printed by Washington Bartlett of San Francisco and was for sale in September, 1849. It had 60 pages. An 80-page edition came out in December, 1849.

It was called a book because it was stitched with cotton thread and had covers of orange wallpaper. Without thread or gaudy covers it would have been called a pamphlet. Historian Hubert Howe Bancroft wrote, "(It) is the first book written in English to be printed north of Mexico and west of the Rockies, and . . . it is the first important book that was ever printed in California."

It was important because it was the first written work about post-gold-discovery California that was not puffy and promotional and full of claims and inaccuracies. It was a fair and factual as Wierzbicki could

make it. Information in it was useful.

There is no claim that it was the first book published in California. It seems a consensus that honor goes to "Manifesto," by Jose Figueroa, a Mexican who was military and political chief in California in 1835, 11 years before the conquest by the United States.

That book, in the Spanish language, was printed in Monterey by Agustin V. Zamorano.

A 1833 edition of the Wierzbicki book was printed by the Grabhorn Press, San Francisco. It has an introduction by George D. Lyman, Nevada-born pediatrician and historian. There is a nonreproducing copy of this book in the California Room of the Public Library.

Lyman found Wierzbicki's grave and gravestone in Laurel Hill Cemetery in San Francisco, and, working from that clue, pieced together the story of Wierzbicki's life.

Wierzbicki was born in Poland Jan. 1, 1815. His father owned everything in the village and every inhabitant was his employe. After basic education the son began a course of study designed to make him a physician.

Czar Nicholas I of Russia, who ruled most of Poland, began to oppress the people. In 1830 there was a revolt in which young Wierzbicki fought for Poland. But the insurgents were defeated and Wierzbicki was imprisoned. He expected to be sent to Siberia, but instead he was exiled.

He made his way to the United States, where he and other refugees were given grants of land. Wierzbicki's was in Illinois. He was a failure as a farmer, in spite of the aid and encouragement he got from kind neighbors.

He abandoned the land in Illinois and got a job teaching French in a private school in Connecticut. He completed his medical studies in the Academy for Medicine there and finally began practice in Providence, R.I.

The war with Mexico began and it excited Wierzbicki. He joined the U.S. Army as a sergeant, believing he had an agreement with an officer friend that he would become a regimental surgeon. He was never more than a corpsman and he had plenty to do on a five-month voyage to California with the volunteer regiment of Col. J.D. Stevenson.

The unhappy former refugee finally was reduced to private. He wrote a letter to Gen. Stephen W. Kearny and Kearny inquired of Col. Stevenson.

Stevenson wrote Kearny, "I have no hesitancy in saying that he is perfectly useless as a soldier."

This seems cruel to say of a man who, as a teenager, had been through hand-to-hand conflict in Poland. But it got Wierzbicki his discharge April 18, 1847.

He began to practice medicine in San Francisco, but nine months after his discharge from the Army the most-famous event in California history occurred. Gold was discovered Jan. 24, 1848, and Wierzbicki was one of those who got the news when Sam Brannan rode into San Francisco shouting, "Gold! Gold in the American River!"

It is probable that Wierzbicki joined the rush to the gold fields as much out of curiosity as out of acquiescence. He was interested in metals and metallurgy, and wrote on the subject. His travels as a prospector acquainted him further

with the California that had nothing to do with gold.

It also made him realize that written material the world was getting from California was often made up of exaggeration and lies.

Wierzbicki's book did not begin with a cannonade about plucking gold nuggets from among the pebbles. It began with "The Country and its Resources."

He wrote of agriculture and the cultivation of the vine. "Sheep as Wealth" was a subject, as was "Provisions for Whalers." There was a section on the prospects for a railroad. The physician wrote of climate and health, and he also wrote of water, forests, missions, Indians, public and military roads, horses, Mormons and how people dressed.

There was, finally, advice to miners and prospectors beginning with how to enter the harbor at San Francisco and, once arrived, "How the Novice Should Act." He told how

to assemble an outfit and described equipment and how to use it.

He gave a sample price list of provisions from pork to vinegar. He made a wise prediction, "When the mania ceases individuals will abandon the mines and companies will step in."

His biographer, Lyman, wrote, "The book is the epitome of truth." It made, Lyman wrote, \$8,000 for the printer and nothing for Wierzbicki.

The Polish physician continued his practice during the 1850s in San Francisco. He did not believe in the primitive drugs of the day, such as calomel.

His discipline was that water was the nearest thing to a cure-all, and when he became ill in 1860 he ignored the counsel of fellow physicians and tried to heal himself. His treatment included rigorous bathing.

He died Dec. 26, 1880.



THE MINER



SCORES OF SHIPS' masts lay abandoned in San Francisco harbor as their crews deserted to seek their fortunes in the gold fields. This picture of a forest

of masts was taken in 1850, one year after Felix Wierzbicki published his book describing conditions in California. Many ignored his advice.

Western Datebook

This list of dates has been gathered from many sources and some dates may change. For detailed information, please contact Chamber of Commerce offices where you plan to visit.

**Today — Tijuana:** Bullfights most Sundays through September.

**Today through Aug. 2 — Claremont:** Annual Claremont Music Festival, Pomona College.

**Today through Aug. 23 — Redlands:** Annual Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival, free.

**Today — Bishop:** 23rd annual Tri-county Fair.

**Today — Ventura:** Equestrian Trails Show and Convention, free.

**Today through July 19 — Santa Barbara:** 56th annual Santa Barbara Horse and Flower Show.

**Today through Aug. 24 — Laguna Beach:** Festival of Arts and Pageant of the Masters; Art-A-Fair and Sawdust '75.

**Today — Frazier Mountain Park:** Annual Fiesta Daze.

**July 18-20 — San Clemente:** Fiesta la Christiania.

**July 19-20 — Oceanside:** 25th annual Mission San Luis Rey Fiesta and Barbecue and 176th Birthday Celebration.

**July 20 — Marina del Rey:** Senior Olympics Canoe and Kayak Competition.

**July 22-27 — Santa Barbara:** 43rd annual Santa Barbara County Fair at fairgrounds in Santa Maria.

**July 25-27 — Apple Valley:** Annual Apple Valley Pow-wow Days, parade 26th.

**July 26 — Malibu:** Senior Olympics Ocean Aquatics Competition, at Zuma Beach.

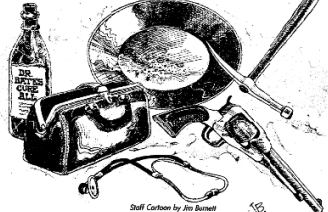
By FRANKLIN MACDONALD

The haphazard state of medical practice in the Gold Rush, what with the quacks and the people's dependence on home remedies, caused many physicians to follow other vocations: saloonkeeper, trader, grocer, gambler, clockmaker, wig-maker, shoemaker, architect, speculator, boardinghouse keeper.

Sometimes they published books. Dr. **Felix Wierzbicki**, a Polish-born physician, published the first book on the Gold Country in 1849. He also had theories about where to find gold: "Where there is oak, there is apt to be gold. When oak gives way to pines, quartz pinches out." No doubt the grizzled prospectors laughed at this.

The Gold Rush Offered A Glittering Array Of Opportunities

Fourth in a series  
By FRANKLIN MACDONALD  
The haphazard state of medical practice in the Gold Rush, what with the quacks and the people's dependence on home remedies, caused many physicians to follow other vocations: saloonkeeper, trader, grocer, gambler, clockmaker, wig-maker, shoemaker, architect, speculator, boardinghouse keeper.  
Sometimes they published books. Dr. Felix Wierzbicki, a Polish-born physician, published the first book on the Gold Country in 1849. He also had theories about where to find gold: "Where there is oak, there is apt to be gold. When oak gives way to pines, quartz pinches out."  
In the fall of 1849, others likewise came to try and not to go to gold. Royal P. Sprague, a doctor from Ohio, arrived, got up a cabin and hung out his shingle. (Later he was to serve 18 years as a judge of the state Supreme Court.)  
Another newcomer was old Major, a 180-pound Southerner. He brought with him a black kowalkeeper named Thomas O'Hara. There was to prove later in Shasta real estate deals. The colored was a carpenter, and one of his first jobs was carrying Maj. Sprague's mail.  
With the newcomers, more log cabins dotted the hill. Still, most of the prospectors had not prospected for the coming winter. There were a few ones but none of the kind that would last. By late fall, the days of rain outnumbered those of sunshine.  
Men began to take a break from the diggings to put up jobhouses. They would erect a framework using logs and what lumber they could scrounge. One this, they would throw canvas and tack it down. E. L. Nash, a local stockbroker, carried the supply of tacks and sold them, 12 for \$1.00. This meant an expense or two, but it was enough to take care of each job-house.  
The rain ceased through November and December.



Macy's Hotel prospered, even after W.S. Bonfield built a rival hotel — the "Toby House" — a block or two later.  
Siderwading in the mining camps, even though a money-maker, was a rugged business. The rough-and-tumble life becomes a boring picture in the following rules posted in a Gold Rush hotel:  
1. Beaten must be paid in advance; with beans \$15, without, \$22.  
2. Prospectors are not to speak to the cook. No extra allowed.  
3. You must wash outside; towel peg at the end of the bed.  
4. Potentially food is sometimes strictly forbidden.  
5. No smoking or fighting while eating.  
6. Langens will receive their own share for bedding.  
7. Extra charges for meat cooked the night.  
8. Don't eat between four o'clock and regular customers.  
9. Persons sleeping in the bar must not remove their boots.  
10. Ladies' heads must not be at 7 A.M., in the bar at 7 A.M.  
11. Each man sleeps on his own straw bed.  
12. Violators of the above rules may be shot!



Mural, Toland Hall, UCSF Medical Center, San Francisco (by Bernard Zakheim) Parnassus Avenue

Depicted: "Hydrotherapy" and his book "California, As it is..."  
See:

<https://blogs.library.ucsf.edu/broughttolight/tag/toland-hall/>

<https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/10/418851/ucsf-hires-conservation-firm-move-zakheim-murals-seismically-vulnerable>

"Felix Paul Wierzbicki (1815-1860) left his native Poland after participating in the doomed revolution of 1830. He made his way to America where he received a medical degree and practiced in Providence, Rhode Island. When the Mexican War broke out,



Wierzbicki enlisted in the Army and was sent to California. Wierzbicki left the Army shortly after reaching the West and practiced medicine until the discovery of gold drew him to prospecting on Mokelumne Hill. In 1849, he returned to San Francisco, where he spent the rest of his life. *California as it is* (1849) was the first English-language book printed in California. It is a valuable guide to California for prospective settlers that includes a survey of agriculture, hints on gold mining, a guide to San Francisco, and a chapter on California's Hispanic residents and Native American tribes."

Author **Felix Paul Wierzbicki**, a Polish exile who lived in **Providence** [RI] for a time, modeled characters in his book, **The ideal man (1841)**, after the **Manton family** of Providence. He learned about them through a **mutual friend, music teacher and composer Edward B. Bohuszewicz**, another Polish exile living in the city. **[See end of this file]**

THE MANTONS IN PROVIDENCE,  
1840-1848, AND BOHUSZEWICZ.

OCR Transcription

In **1841** [1842?] there was published in Boston a little book bearing the following title, "The Ideal Man; a conversation between two friends upon the Beautiful, the Good, and the True, as manifested in actual life. By a Philokalist" It was published by **Elizabeth P. Peabody**, then a bookseller, in Boston. This distinguished woman was a correspondent with Goethe; she was an educated woman, in the German language, and possessed a philosophical mind. The preface to this book, and the author of it. The author's name was **Felix Paul Wierzbicki**, pronounced Viertsbitski. The book was apparently **copyrighted at Boston** by J. P. Wierzbicki. This was possibly a **typographical error**, the two names being for the same person. There certainly was no person bearing those names in the Boston Directory at that time.

Felix Paul Wierzbicki was a Pole, who was forced to leave Poland by his participation in the **Polish Revolution of 1830**. He came to this country, and **settled at Boston**, where he acquired the English language, and became a **teacher: later he studied medicine** and became a physician. He came to **Providence** to practice medicine and resided at the **Franklin House**, then **\_\_\_ a leading hotel**. It was there that this book, the "Ideal Man", was doubtless written, and this leads me to examine it. **The author says the "Ideal Man" is a conversation between two friends.**



The nature of this conversation is fore-shadowed in the Preface, "Have the sympathies of your heart ever been so entwined with those of a hero as to feel that his noble sentiments and deeds were yours also? Have you felt your soul expand on your discovery of some truth? If you have experienced all this, and more, I need not plead before you the claims of the Beautiful, the Good, and the True, which I have endeavored here to twine into one thread of life in the "Ideal Man." With this introduction of his readers "into the company of my two friends, I withdraw that they make their acquaintance at leisure." These two friends were named respectively, Rudolph and Conrad, and the impression prevails that Conrad was the senior of the two friends. They discuss the natural beauties of the Earth, and the influences upon the minds of men which these beauties should exert; and how when exerted, in absolute harmony, the result is, in mankind, the beautiful, the good, and the true. Thus the two friends discuss Christianity; intellectual development; the influences best calculated to call out the noble feelings in man ; first, Nature, and the \_\_\_\_\_, sculpture being specially considered. But Music is specifically excepted from a direct, decided mention. The reason for this exception appears in a succeeding chapter, given wholly to the glorification of music. It begins, "How little is music, the purest of our delights; the most incorruptible; the holiest of influences that \_\_\_\_\_ the human heart, understood in its nature." Music thus being found unique, in its influences, Conrad returns to consider the other influences. These are his views : "The Fine Arts aim to imitate nature in embodying the idea of the beautiful, each in their respective manner. Hence to painting, sculpture, and architecture you must add oratory, poetry, dancing, and gardening. Scarcely may we be allowed to separate oratory from poetry, since what is truly beautiful in it, is poetic; yet as their application sometimes differs we may for the sake of convenience regard them as distinct. To me the poetic element is the best argument in favor of the immortality of the soul; it penetrates the crust of the material world and sheds a ray of hope procuring better destinies for the race hereafter. It brings up the soul even when it seems to be engulfed in sense. It is the spiritual lever destined to make the human race rise to the

highest degree of civilization and perfection; though assuming various phases, yet, it ever was, and is, active in the human soul ; the rudest tribes even are blessed with its beneficent influence. Could man but apprehend its character, and follow its impulses, happiness would not be so empty a word as he now finds it." This conversation between two Friends, upon the Beautiful, the Good, and the True, turned upon the illustration of these virtues as "manifested in Actual Life". This at once suggests men, and women, and children as thus existing somewhere. Were they in Providence, where this book was written, **Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, and their four children, were the persons discussed** (pages 47-52).

Many of those who have visited Swan Point Cemetery have observed a fine Granite monument, near the entrance, erected in memory of **Edward B. Bohuszewicz**, pronounced Bhoosevitsch, who died in Providence in September 1848; This person was a Polish gentleman who lived in Providence several years, and who was received by the most educated, and most influential families here. He was a music teacher, at the time, of a quality then quite unknown to Providence. Among his most intimate friends were **Mr. and Mrs. Amasa Manton**, and their sons and daughters. The Mantons dwelt in a fine old mansion on Snow street, which was at that time the very center of polite society. At the home of the Mantons, Mr. Bohuszewicz was a constant visitor There he "met all the professions ; lawyers, divines, physicians, artists, politicians, military men, artisans, and simple farmers; gentlemen of leizure, and talked politics, religion, arts, science, and philosophy; I have enjoyed the company of high bred and handsome women, and listened to their winning words, and charming strains of music." Such was Mr. Conrad's story, and it was true of the visits of Mr. Bohuzewicz to the home of the Mantons. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley had four children - so did the Mantons. and Mrs. Stanley had two boys and two girls - so had the Mantons. The eldest son of the Stanleys studied at the German Universities - so did the eldest son of the Mantons. Mr. Stanley was about fifty-three years of age. Mr. Manton was not quite fifty. The Stanleys passed their summers in the country - so, too, did the Mantons. Fortune lavished her favors upon Mr. Stanley - so, too, her favors were lav-

ished upon Mr. Manton. The gardens around Mr. Stanley's house were "not exhibitions of vulgar pride". The garden in front of Mr. Manton's house on Snow street was of ideal beauty. The Stanleys had a daughter named Isabella; so likewise had the Mantons. So I might continue in making comparisons. Conrad grew eloquent in his characterizations of the Stanleys. "Their life became my study, for I found in them my ideal of life. In drawing you a sketch of the family of the Stanleys, I will present you the results of education conducted under the light of the True, the Beautiful, and the Good. Mark, what a charming group these Stanleys make, — good enough to immortalize a painter." Conrad was almost eulogistic of the Stanley children. The eldest son he names Zeno after a great student of Socrates, who was the founder of the stoics. Conrad continues, "A mind of Zeno's cast will not fail to learn that the highest aim of the wise and good should be to fill the place in which Providence has chosen to put him." (p. 70.) The eldest son of the Mantons became a student at the German Universities as I have before stated. But for downright enthusiasm I commend Conrad's description of the two daughters of the Stanleys, and then I note the fact that **Mr. Bohuszewicz dedicated two of his musical compositions to the two daughters of the Mantons.** These compositions are in the Sidney S. Rider Historical Library now at Brown University. One of these daughters is named in the book Helen, her real name was Elizabeth. The name Helen must have been a typographical error for \_\_\_\_\_. The eldest daughter of the Mantons was the first woman in Providence, to know anything of Helen's Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. then an almost unknown book. It bore the name of no author. It was anonymous. She must have learned of its existence from Mr. Bohuszewicz, who was a scholar. The author of Helen's Pilgrimage was the distinguished German scholar, **David Frederick Strauss**, the author of the extraordinary Life of Jesus. This fact is not stated in any of the biographies which I have been able to consult. Helen is mentioned half a dozen times in Biblical history, always as being the Father of Eliab. **These two Polish gentlemen in Providence at the same time were both exiles, forced to leave their country, by the disastrous Revolution of 1830. Necessarily they must have been confidential friends, and**

#### [Book Notes, Volume 21, Page 105 | Document Viewer](#)

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HISTORICAL, LITERARY AND CRITICAL conducted by **SIDNEY S. RIDER**, 73 ALMY ... The author's name was Felix Paul **Wierzbicki**, pro- nounced Viertsbitski.

#### [Full text of "Book notes" - Internet Archive](#)

[https://archive.org/stream/.../booknotesv21prov\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/.../booknotesv21prov_djvu.txt) ▼ Internet Archive ▼

It can never overthrow the opinion which the writer (**Sidney S. Rider**)- was the first to ..... The author's name was Felix Paul **Wierzbicki**, pro- nounced Viertsbitski.

#### [Full text of "Rhode Island, a bibliography of its history /"](#)

[archive.org/stream/.../rhodeislandbibli00unse\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/.../rhodeislandbibli00unse_djvu.txt) ▼ Internet Archive ▼

Providence: **Sidney S. Rider** & Brother, 1867. viii, 452p. .... Author Felix Paul **Wierzbicki**, a Polish exile who lived in Providence for a time, modeled characters in ..



from this intimacy Mr. "Wiersbieki developed the narrative which he has left us. Mr. Wierzbicki's Stanleys were Mr. Bohuszewicz's Mantons. The monument at Swan Point was erected by the Mantons, the money being largely the gift of Amasa Manton. Such is the interesting history connected with the "Ideal Man" published in Boston in 1842.

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Anniversary of the Polish Revolution (of 1830)  
New York, December 1845, *The Tribune*.

**Dr. Wierzbicki's speech** was in English, and though very well written, was delivered with the slowness and hesitancy of a foreigner and therefore had less effect than it would in his native tongue. He spoke with judgment and feeling of the history and present position of Poland, hoping in the might of principles and the possibility of her enduring the constantly increasing injuries heaped upon her. We think, ourselves, that it is impossible they should, now that Nicholas is determined to break up not only all feelings of nationality, but also of individuality. The very worm would not endure so crushing and pertinacious a footstep without rising up to sting the tyrant's heel. He will find that the sanctuary of religious faith, or those inherited sentiments which are as indestructible a part of the man as his life-blood, cannot be entirely broken up and rifled without causing explosion that may wound him. Dr. Wierzbicki imputed in part the failure of earlier efforts at resistance to the bad influence of the Jesuits who have sown the seeds of disease and feebleness in the Polish youth during the unguarded hours of education so that, when the day came for wise and united effort, they were not found fit for it. A friend who was present has furnished us a report of Dr. Wierzbicki's remarks which we insert without abbreviation:

Countrymen and Fellow Citizens—Once more on the resurrection of the anniversary of the Polish Revolution of 1830 we meet to commemorate that great event, to do honor to the heroic dead and to plead before the civilized world the cause of that martyred nation that its quickened sympathies may strengthen anew her sons in their efforts for a national existence. The spirit of the Poles, notwithstanding their reverse of fortune, is not yet broken, and as every streamlet goes to swell the sweeping waves of a mighty river, so every expression of sympathy for their holy cause quickens and animates their ardor.

The events of the past year have proved that their relentless foe has not relaxed his grasp; new victims have been added to dungeons already full to overflowing; the bones of thousands are whitening in the mountain peaks of Caucasus; beloved wives, mothers and sisters have longed for death as their only deliverer; others have suffered the martyrdom of the early

Christians inflicted by this modern Diocletian. Pious nuns whose sole crimes were love of God and love of country have left bloody foot prints on the desert wastes of Siberia. But I need not go on enumerating the atrocities inflicted upon that hapless nation by the incarnate fiend under whose iron heel she now writhes; my breast is tightening at the recollection of them, and cries of anguish seem to be wafted on the evening breeze to our very midst.

It is not enough that the Poles endure the gnawing pains of despotism at home; they are followed in their exile and unrelentingly traduced abroad. To cover the blackness of the souls of their oppressors, their character as a nation is maligned, their history is falsified, and their honor—that last and dearest patrimony left unsullied by their forefathers—is assailed. Of the many who have done this infamous work of despots we cannot overlook an Alison who with a consummate hypocrisy of candor misrepresents the hearing and teachings of Polish history in a work on Europe so well known to the English reader. And even in this land of freedom we regret we behold a man professing to be a follower of the just, meek, and loving Master now traversing the country and scattering widely unwarranted opinions under the garb of “Lectures on the History of Northern Nations of Europe”. Out of regard for his clerical station I dare not question the motives that influence the Rev. Dr. Baird, but in justice to the cause of truth and humanity I am bound to expose his ignorance of the subject upon which he “Lectures on the History of Northern Nations of Europe” discourses so largely.

There are others who, to expulcate the Czar, call the struggle of the Poles an old family quarrel to be settled by the parties themselves—another of those abominable falsehoods to circulate which the Russian Government spares not its gold. I hold in my hands an address to the Russians delivered by the Poles in London commemorating on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July last the anniversary of the death of the first five martyrs in the cause of Russian freedom. This address alone, if there were no other proofs, refuted the above assertions; the Russians here are styled brothers, children of the same parent stock, only duped and made subservient to the cunning devices of one selfish Tataro Germanie family, who grasps at the whole world for the sole pleasure of tyrannizing over it. What noble, what fraternal, what Christian sentiments does this address breathe to the misled Russians? The Italian patriots, at whose head stands the name of the honest Mazzini, are a guaranty of the truth of its contents.

In view of these calumnies and misrepresentations, it becomes a sacred duty to every Pole to protest against the injustice done to his country's cause and such an occasion as the present especially calls upon him to speak aloud of these wrongs and of their consequences upon the destinies of other nations. But it is doubly the duty of him who, like myself, is not less proud to call himself a Pole than a citizen of this Republic.

A discerning eye cannot fail to see that Providence, in its wisdom, has chosen the two nations as the instruments of the future regeneration of mankind. Permit me then, my countrymen and fellow citizens, to vindicate the honor of Poland, and linger for a moment upon the bright destinies which a unity of spirit between my native and adopted lands will secure for future

generations. Her calumniators find it prudent to ignore the debt which science and Christianity, or, in a word, Civilization, owes to the Polish nation. I need not now dwell on this point—I have done so on another occasion. But it is to the spirit of her history that I will devote a few thoughts.

From her first entrance into the ranks of Christian nations, Poland was ever foremost in the progressive development of civilization, and she proved, on more than one occasion, that she comprehended the spirit of her Divine Master better than some of her more boastful neighbors. A spirit of humanity, a love of light and freedom constantly illumine the pages of her history. Who first among nations endeavored to enlighten the mass of her people by a liberal stream of education? History answers, Poland—the same Poland that protected the freedom of conscience. Her moral grandeur may be seen in the institution of the order of nobility, which was conferred for real merit—virtue and knowledge only, while in other countries invaders, freebooters, banditti, became barons of the realm—as in England, where the bloody Norman was the noble of the land.

The Polish nobility sprang from her own soil, at her own bidding; and he only who showed wisdom in council, courage on the battle field in defense of his country was made noble. And even three centuries, he who received the honors of a University, entered *de jure* the rank of the proudest of her families, whatever might have been his origin.

The Polish nation was characterized by a spirit of great humanity. When her sons were fighting against despotism in Italy, in the end of the last century, their banners spoke to the world: "*Gli numini liberi ano fratat*" (?). Freemen are brothers. And when the Northern tyrant raised his arm to strike a dandy (?) blow against Belgium, lest liberty might receive a mortal wound, Poland hastened to impose her own bosom. In their late struggle with their foe, the inscription "*For our and your liberte*" on their standards told the misled Russian soldiery that freedom or death were in their own hands; and many have found, when made prisoners of war, that they were in the hands of forgiving brothers, rather than relentless enemies. The noblest of her sons fought side by side in the cause of freedom and humanity. By such deeds is the spirit and history of the Polish nation manifested.

Her enemies and ill-informed friends ascribe the fall of Poland to her political follies and vices, thus endeavoring to extenuate the guilt of her rapacious neighbors. But as great follies and greater crimes have existed, and do exist now elsewhere, and yet the identity(?) and independence of those countries is preserved notwithstanding; he who does not see this must have read history to little purpose.

The Poles are accused of want of unanimity, by those who do not wish to remember that difference of opinion is inseparable from the freedom of thought; freemen must differ, and as long as their hearts are inaccessible to corruption, their safety lies in this difference. But the



misfortune of the Poles was that their enemies, through secret channels, spared no effort to increase and maintain the difference.

The causes which were demoralizing European society were acting more or less in Poland also, and in the end proved a hot-bed for those which strictly sprung from her own institutions and operated within her territory. The cause that above all others brought on the downfall of Poland lies in the corrupt education of the Polish children, effected by the society of the Jesuits. At the time when the followers of the enthusiastic and crafty Loyola were introduced into Poland the world was weak enough to believe in their virtue, and the Polish nation, in this simplicity, with the same generosity that supported the learning of the Protestants, sought to maintain it among her Catholics also, by confiding to this fraternity of moral Thugs well-endowed institutions for education.

Previous to this event, Polish Catholicism was liberal and enlightened, and did not look to Rome to be instructed upon its doctrines and duties; but when the society of Jesus stuck its deep roots into the Polish soil, a change came over the nation; the galaxy of bright stars that shone over the Polish horizon in the sixteenth century began to lose its brilliancy, its constellations went down one by one, and a profound moral night overhung the land. By degrees the Jesuits succeeded in engrossing the public education, and before a century elapsed the Polish nation presented a humiliating spectacle of bigots under the Jesuitical rod gravely discussing absurdities for the glory of God and salvation of men, while the civic virtues were forgotten. It is the object of the Jesuits to get dominion over the human soul by its bias, be it virtue or vice—an end which they never fail to attain. The efforts of the Piarists, an order of patriotic ecclesiastics, were made too late to counteract effeciently the baneful influence of the Jesuits. The enemies of the human species by casuistry, which they called philosophy, and doggrel Latin which they taught to the exclusion of even Polish, stultified the nation to the degree that she could not see the abyss to which she was verging, and religious persecution, unheard of before in Poland, sealed her destruction. Her enemies, under the most specious pretences, committed that act that filled every manly heart in Christendom with horror and indignation. Thus, for the last half century, Poland has been held down by the iron arm of power, but still, God be thanked, her spirit is not crushed, poor and desolate as she is.

From this page of Polish history, an important lesson may be learned. A proper public education in a free State is of the most vital importance to its security and prosperity; and a country whose destinies are so great and glorious as those of this republic cannot fail to appreciate the lesson. Vigorous in her limbs, unshackled in her movements, with her face turned westward, she sees beyond the setting sun continents which Providence points out as the field of her labors in behalf of degraded races. Already the inhabitants of the Sandwich Islands bless her coming. Ere long her two opposite shores will be spanned by iron bars, and the shrill voice of the iron horse will resound among the dales and mountains of the Pacific coast; San Francisco on one shore, as New York on the other, will send their pulsating life into

the most distant regions. Then light and freedom will encompass the western world and its effulgence will penetrate even Asiatic darkness. This, which now is visible only to the eye of fancy, ere fifty years pass away, will be a reality.

Wrapped in this beautiful vision, I see America press onward in this high career, conscious that her progress is the guaranty of the progress of mankind. True to her trust, and mindful of higher wants than mere physical well-being, she keeps the torch of the hopes of the race ever burning. Poland, placed in the heart of Europe, at the head of eight five millions of the Slavonic race, purified through her martyrdom, and now, as ever, advancing the general good, is powerfully contributing to the same end. And when the masses of men are once fairly in motion, no earthly power can arrest their onward career. Liberty and light, in a united current, will melt like the electric fluid, the fetters in which men have already groaned too long. Friends of liberty and humanity, remember, the voice of this nation has its thousand echoes on the opposite shores of the Atlantic! "Let us, then" (in the words of one of your own poets)

"Let us, then, be up and doing  
With a heart for any fate,  
Still achieving, still pursuing  
Learn to labor and to wait."

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F. P. Wierzbicki, M.D., wrote *California As It Is & As It May Be Or A Guide To The Gold Region* in 1849. When the Grabhorn Press reprinted it in 1933, George D. Lyman was asked to write an introduction. He and the publisher didn't know anything about Wierzbicki. In his search for information, Lyman went searching for his grave at Lone Mountain Cemetery. Below is a portion of Lyman's introduction that described the search.

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. . .If I could locate Wierzbicki's grave, I told myself, get the dates from the headstone -- the place where he was born -- the time when he died -- I would have a beginning. With that information I could locate birth announcement -- funeral notices -- perhaps even find an obituary in San Francisco papers. Fortified with dates, Polish archives, as well as the Bancroft and the State Libraries, would give up their secrets. It was necessary that I have those dates. So, the next morning, I called the Board of Health by phone.

"Have you," I said to the mortuary statistician, "the death records of one, Dr. F. P. Wierzbicki, who was practicing medicine in San Francisco in 1849?"

I could hear the statistician making noises in his throat.

"Why, you know, all those files were destroyed at the time of the great fire in 1906."

"Is there no record of any kind?" I pursued.

"Perhaps," said the statistician. "If the doctor chanced to be buried by N. Gray & Company, the pioneer funeral directors of San Francisco, you will find a record of his interment in the 'Book of the Dead'--their register of every

burial they have made since 1850."

On the wings of hope I flew to N. Gray & Company.

"I want to locate the grave of a Polish doctor -- Felix P. Wierzbicki," I told the young woman in the office at Gray's. "Perhaps you have a record of where he was buried. He was born in Poland -- so you'll probably find him in the Catholic Cemetery." I watched as she ran a slender finger down the index of the dead. "No," she said, "not in the Catholic Cemetery. But -- here he is, on Lone Mountain." As she spoke she jotted some words on a slip of yellow paper and handed it across to me. I read:

"Laurel Hill -- Chain Plot -- Tier 3 -- Grave 55."

I thanked her kindly and hurried away.

I hailed this discovery with considerable joy. Now, I told myself, I would learn who Wierzbicki was, where he was born, when he died. All anticipation, I headed my motor-car toward Lone Mountain.

Up Pine Street, through the Bush Street gates to Laurel Hill, I sped. At the office -- braked to a stop.

"The Chain Plot," I said to the superintendent. "I am looking for the Chain Plot." At the same time visualizing to myself a greenswarded spot surrounded by low iron posts from which swung heavy black chains.

"The Chain Plot --" repeated the superintendent, as if endeavoring to recall some long-forgotten part of Lone Mountain. "The Chain Plot? Oh yes -- over the hill yonder -- beyond the mausoleums of those Washoe millionaires." He indicated a spot to the right. When I still hesitated, "Come along," he said, "I'll show you."

Across a mound-marked turf, as undulating as waves on a sea, we walked. And as we walked I was telling the superintendent about Wierzbicki. How he wrote the first guide book to the gold region. That it was published in old San Francisco. That it was valued by book collectors and those who cherished an unvarnished account of California in 1849. About the Grabhorn reprint and the introduction I was hoping to write. "I must locate his grave," I said conclusively, "and get the dates of birth and death from it. The introduction depends upon them. Without dates," I assured him, "there is no possibility of preparing a suitable introduction."

All this time we were climbing a weed-choked path. Wild birds were singing and scolding over their nests in nearby yews. Earthworms were burrowing through upturned sods. Gates sagged and grated on rusty hinges. Blades of grass, like points of green swords, poked their spears through the mold of last year's leaves. On every side was the continuous cycle -- beginning -- end -- beginning again. "The bird has a nest -- the worm a clod -- each man a country," I quoted, "but the exile only a grave surrounded by chains."

We reached the brow of the hill. Over the high walls along California Street came the clangor of heavy traffic. Lone Mountain was far from being a peaceful spot. Beyond roof-tops I could glimpse a blue expanse of Pacific -- and the bar at the entrance to the Golden Gate.

Before a long, moldering heap of ruined turf the superintendent had come to a stop. "The Chain Plot," he said, indicating the disarray before me.

"The Chains?" I asked. "Where are they?"

"Long since rusted away, and parted -- too much fog and damp on Lone Mountain," he said.

"Tier 3," I read from the yellow paper. The superintendent looked about. He couldn't even locate Tier 1. Everything



was leveled or in the process of being leveled to the dust. "Eighty years is a long time in this damp," he said. "Neither iron nor marble can weather mold. This is the first plot on Lone Mountain. The pioneers of old San Francisco lie here." I looked over the walls and down on the shining roofs of the city. And I wondered if anything still stood that these dusty tenants had builded.

There were graves all about us. To the right -- to the left -- before -- behind -- wrecked -- uncared-for mounds and fell depressions. Marble slabs leaned this way -- that. Some toppled half forward -- some leaned far back -- others, having lost their foundations, had pitched completely over. I peered into their ancient faces -- trying to read their inscriptions -- white -- gray -- rusty inscriptions. Repeating, as I did so: "Felix Paul Wierzbicki. Felix P. Wierzbicki," that in the confusion of the new names my eyes rested upon, I might not forget the one I sought, "F. P. Wierzbicki -- F. P. Wierzbicki. F. P. W."

"Here's 55," called the superintendent. I hurried forward. He was hovering over a sunken spot.

"The marker?" I asked.

"Wood," he replied. To prove it, he picked up a nearby stick, crumbled it and blew away the dust with a breath.

I was disappointed. He turned to go. I had expected more from the Chain Plot. Exiled -- and the doctor couldn't even claim a sod. The Polish poet had been wrong -- the wild bird might have a nest -- the worm a clod -- any man a country -- but Wierzbicki hadn't even a grave. I summed up the situation. There was nothing left of the doctor but a few hundred words the bibliomaniacs fought over in auction rooms. The book was worth \$600. But its author was not worth even a ruined gravestone.

Feeling a bit cynical, I returned down the weed-choked path. Down that same path up which Wierzbicki's friends had brought him to the Chain Plot, I thought. They didn't even put up a marker to his memory. A fine lot of friends! Back I threw a reproachful look. A clump of myrtle with shining leaves that was cascading over a low white marker, half hiding it, caught my eye.

"Back in a moment," I said to the superintendent as I swept myrtle and sand aside, disclosing a low white stone on which was carved three initials: "F. P. W." I read them again: "F. P. W."

Shall I name the feeling that possessed me? It was extravagant. Perhaps Balboa, when he gazed on the bosom of the Pacific, felt it. Satisfaction, out of all proportion to the low white foot-marker I gazed upon, welled within me.

"Have you a knife?" I called.

In answer, the superintendent flashed forth a long pruning-knife. I grasped it by the haft and plunged the blade here and there into the mound until I felt, and heard, iron rasp against rock.

"There," triumphantly from the superintendent as his ear caught the sound, "the headstone!" Together we rolled sand, dirt and myrtle aside. The base of a shivered funeral urn, from which the urn itself had been broken away, greeted our eye. But nothing more. That was disappointing.

I looked up. From a near-by tree -- a spreading oak or cypress -- a limb was missing. I had it. One night there had been a tempest on Lone Mountain with driving wind and pelting rain. That branch had snapped loose and fallen across Wierzbicki's grave, severing the chains, breaking the urn from its base, the stone from its foundation, and the slab, like a plummet dropped in water, had sunk foot first into soft unresisting sand and buried itself.

"Got a shovel?" I asked.

Deep into the mound I sank the blade. Again iron grated harshly against stone. I shoveled away the sand. The top of

a marble slab disclosed itself -- gray-colored -- and, because it had been so long buried, slimy to the touch. We tugged at it, the superintendent and I. This way. That. It was slippery. There was nothing on which to get a hold. It resisted our combined efforts and scarcely budged. We grasped at it more firmly and moved it violently back and forth. I must have those dates.

Upward we pulled. The sand loosed its hold. We felt it give. With a sucking noise the square top of a marble slab emerged, ever so slightly, above the level of the mound. I leaned forward to read -- shall I confess? -- with what exultation:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF DR. FELIX P. WIERZBICKI

*I have never thought I could feel joy on reading the name of any man -- not even an arch enemy -- had I one -- carved on his tombstone -- let alone smile triumphantly while doing it. Yet when I beheld that of Wierzbicki a feeling closely akin to rejoicing seized me. I felt more like shouting. I looked at the superintendent. He, too, was wreathed with satisfaction.*

"Higher-higher," I called. "There is more carved below, and I can't read it yet." The superintendent tugged with might and main, but made little impression. The sand sucked at the marker and it slipped out of sight. I went to his assistance. Like two possessed, we struggled with that piece of marble. Perspiration in riuets coursed down our faces. Sand sunk into our shoes. But little by little the sand slackened its hold. Inch by inch we raised the tablet. Again I leaned over to read:

"Born in Charniawce, Poland, January 1, 1815

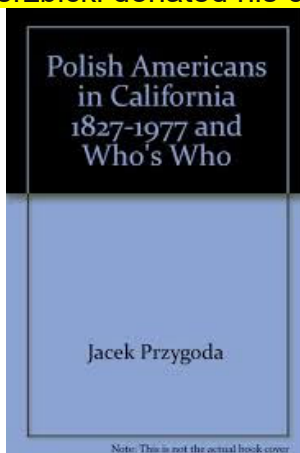
Died December 26, 1860

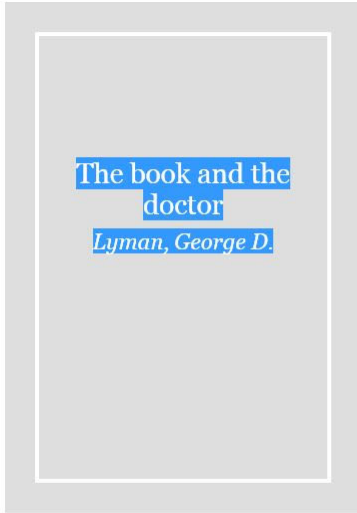
Highly esteemed by all who knew"

There I had it in a brief statement. What I had sought to know. The summation of Wierzbicki's life. The date of his birth. The period of the grave. And a concise appraisal of his life. The epitaph, not a flowery one such as a man like Wierzbicki would have despised, but a brief, austere one such as he would have approved. I was elated. . .

Source: Library of Congress. California As I Saw It, First-Person Narratives of California's Early Years, 1849-1900. Volume 15. [database on-line] Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1999. Wierzbicki, Felix Paul. California As It Is and As It May Be. San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1933.

Wierzbicki donated his collection of 800 books to the Polish Library in Los Angeles, according to:





## The book and the doctor

by George D. Lyman.

Published **1933** by [\[G.D. Lyman\]](#) in [San Francisco](#).

Written in [English](#).

### Edition Notes

Heller, E.R. Grabhorn Press, 198.

"Bibliography for the study of the life of F.P. Wierzbicki, M.D.": p. [xxxi]-[xxxiii]

Concerns Felix Paul Wierzbicki and his book: California as it is and as it may be, or, A guide to the gold region. 1849.

"Privately printed."

Also published as an introd. to the 1933 Grabhorn Press ed. of Wierzbicki's book, for which it was written.

"Twenty-five copies presented to members of the Roxburgh Club, and twenty-five copies to members of the Vicious Circle"--Heller.

Inscription: **Edward B. Bohuszewicz [friend of Wierzbicki]**

Born at Podolia in Poland

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podolia>

Died at Providence.

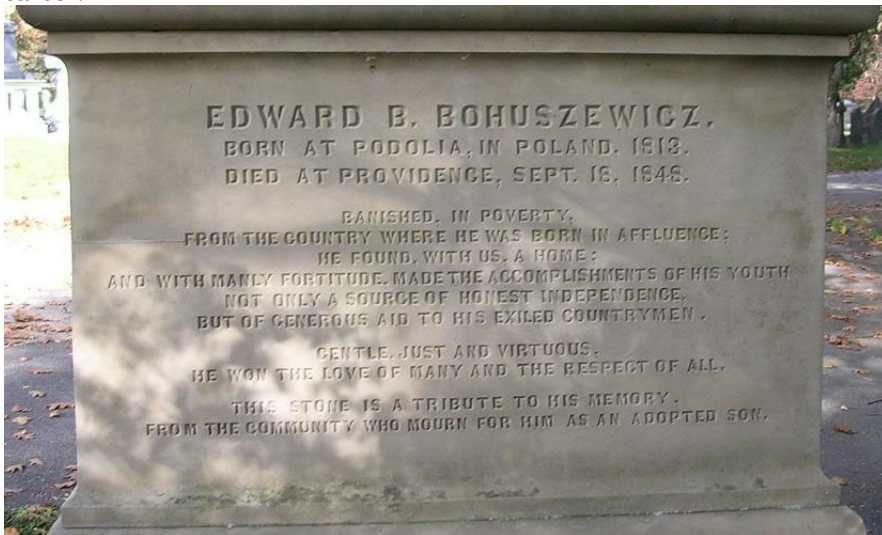
Banished, in poverty, from the country where he was born in affluence, he found, with us, a home; and with manly fortitude made the accomplishments of his youth not only a source of honest independence, but of generous aid to his exiled countrymen. Gentle, just and virtuous, he won the love of many and respect of all. This stone is a tribute to his memory from the community who mourn for him as an adopted son.

### [Swan Point Cemetery](#)

Providence, Providence County, [Rhode Island](#), USA

Plot: Group 234, Location: L, Lot: 1

**Edward B. Bohuszewicz** is listed as a Polish Revolutionist of 1830 -31 who immigrates to the United States. [His time in Providence is one dedicated to music.](#) He is the conductor for the Beethoven Society in 1846, a group of vocalists and musicians. The New England Historical Genealogical Register lists him as a music teacher in relationship to Henry Thayer Drowne. He is the composer for several pieces including "Andalusian Cachucha," "Aquila Waltz," "Beautiful Spring Waltz," "Boston Grand March," "Vinton's Quickstep," "Yankee Polka," "The Polish Pilgrim," and others in his short but prolific career.



1813 – 1848

**Name:** Edward B. Bohuscewicz  
**Kin 1:** Daniel Bogman  
**Kin 2:** Mary A. Blodget  
**Death Date:** [19 Sep 1848](#)  
**Age:** 35 Yrs





<https://jbc.bj.uj.edu.pl/publication/578429>

**Name:** Baltazar Bohuszewicz  
**Arrival Year:** 1834  
**Arrival Place:** New York, New York  
**Source  
Publication  
Code:** 4606  
**Primary  
Immigrant:** Bohuszewicz, Baltazar

**Annotation:** Date and port of arrival. Polish exiles who came from Trieste to New York on the frigates **Guerriera** and **Hebe**; on the corvettes **Lipsia** and **Adria**; and to Boston on the merchant vessel **Cherokee**.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/20147901>

Edward **Baltasar Bohuszewicz** (1810-1848) was a pianist

## **Wierzbicki Feliks Paweł (1815–1860), lekarz, powstaniec listopadowy, emigrant w USA, podróżnik, pisarz**

**Source** LERSKI, JERZY JAN. "List of the Polish Exiles in the United States of North America." In *A Polish Chapter in Jacksonian America: The United States and the Polish Exiles of 1831*. Madison, MI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1958, pp. 172-180.

**Bibliography:**

The *Polish Biographical Dictionary* entry on FP Wierzbicki is being written by Roman Włodek and Maureen Mroczek Morris

GILLIAN OLECHNO-HUSZCZA

## *Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki in California.*

**T**HROUGHOUT THE HISTORY of the United States men and women have appeared from time to time from among Americans of Polish descent in California to achieve national and international stature. These include Ralph Modjeski, engineer of the Oakland Bay Bridge; Andrzej Poniatowski who developed the Mokelumne River and brought hydro-electric power to San Francisco; Jan Styka, the artist responsible for the "Crucifixion," a monumental painting housed in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale; Czesław Miłosz of the University of California at Berkeley, poet and recent Nobel laureate in literature, and other notable writers, teachers, actors, artists and musicians too numerous to mention.<sup>1</sup> Several such Poles were numbered among California's early pioneers. One of them, little known today outside the Polish American community and a few bibliophiles, was the physician Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki. Depicted on a fresco on the wall of the Toland Amphitheatre of the University Hospital in San Francisco,<sup>2</sup> he appears slightly Mephistophelian as he gazes down upon passersby, but on his tombstone in the Presidio National Cemetery are inscribed the words "Highly esteemed by all who knew him."<sup>3</sup>

Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki was born in 1815 in Czerniawka, a village in the province of Volhynia, at that time part of Poland and

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed account of the history of Poles in California see Jacek Przygoda [ed.], *Polish Americans in California 1827-1977 and Who's Who* (Los Angeles: Polish American Historical Association, 1978).

<sup>2</sup> The fresco, one of several painted by Bernard Zackheim for the Medical Center at the University of California, San Francisco, surrounds the entire Toland Amphitheater, and depicts the history of medicine in California from its beginnings with the Spanish missionaries up to the date of the painting. On the extreme left as one enters the auditorium is Dr. Wierzbicki, pen in hand, holding a copy of his book on California. He stands in front of his office door which is inscribed with his name and "Hydrotherapy." He is easily identifiable as Polish from the Polish white eagle on a red background, hanging on a medallion around his neck. Further information about the frescoes can be found in *California's Medical Story in Fresco* (San Francisco: University of California Medical Center, 1939).

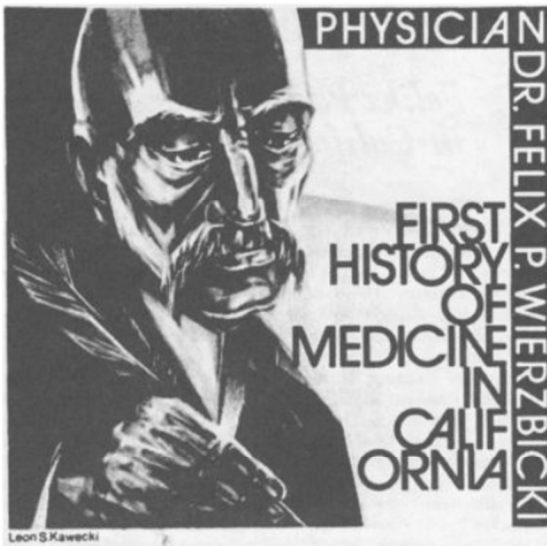
<sup>3</sup> Lyman found his grave in the Laurel Hill Cemetery. Haiman even supplied a photograph. Other sources name the National Cemetery in the Presidio, where indeed his grave is to be found. Cemetery records state: "Discharged November 24th, 1856. Disinterred from Laurel Hill



338. [Grabhorn Press] **WIERZBICKI, Felix Paul** (1815-1860). *California as it is & as it may be or, a Guide to the Gold Region... with an Introduction by George D. Lyman. Drawings by Valenti Angelo.* San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1933. ¶ Series: Rare Americana, 8. 8vo. xxix, [3], 100, [4] pp. Illustrations, bibliog. Original quarter black cloth, printed paper spine label, green decorative boards. Some offsetting to endleaf, else near fine.

\$ 28

LIMITED EDITION of 500 copies, with drawings by Valenti Angelo. "Felix Paul Wierzbicki (1815-1860) left his native Poland after participating in the doomed revolution of 1830. He made his way to America where he received a medical degree and practiced in Providence, Rhode Island. When the Mexican War broke out, Wierzbicki enlisted in the Army and was sent to California. Wierzbicki left the Army shortly after reaching the West and practiced medicine until the discovery of gold drew him to prospecting on Mokelumne Hill. In 1849, he returned to San Francisco, where he spent the rest of his life. *California as it is* (1849) was the first English-language book printed in California. It is a valuable guide to California for prospective settlers that includes a survey of agriculture, hints on gold mining, a guide to San Francisco, and a chapter on California's Hispanic residents and Native American tribes." – WorldCat. The present edition follows the text of the second edition. *Grabhorn Press Bibliography* 186; Howes W-405; Kurutz 678d; Rocq 16155; Sabin 103893 [note]; Zamorano 80 [#79 note].



A caricature of Felix P. Wierzbicki by Leon S. Kawecki, printed with the permission of the artist.

now part of the Soviet Ukraine. At the age of 15, possibly while preparing to enter the Medical College of Warsaw, he took part in the November Insurrection (1830-1831) against Russian domination.<sup>4</sup> The regiment in which he served retreated into the Austrian occupied portion of Poland, where it was allowed to remain until

Cemetery and re-interred on August 6th, 1936." Probably in response to the re-publication of Wierzbicki's book in 1933, the American-Polish Citizen's Club in San Francisco reconstructed his grave in Pioneer Memorial Park in 1936. This cemetery was later condemned by the City of San Francisco, so the Club obtained permission from the War Department to transfer the remains of Dr. Wierzbicki to the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio, and the new grave was dedicated on Decoration Day, May 30, 1940. Today the headstone still stands, surmounted by the Polish eagle, a memorial to "a man who gave his time and knowledge to the people and the country of his adoption." See Stanley Walchak, speech delivered in Polish Hall, San Francisco, in April 1941, which is in the possession of the Society of California Pioneers.

<sup>4</sup> Mieczysław Haiman, *Feliks Paweł Wierzbicki i jego "California"* (Chicago: Dziennik Zjednoczenia, 1933).

1833. At that time Austria entered into an agreement with the other two partitioning powers to maintain vigilance over the former participants in the insurrection in case they should stir up new revolutionary movements. Because of this agreement, about 400 Poles were interned in the fortress of Brno (Brunn). Austria gave them two choices: they could return to Poland under an amnesty from the czar, or they could emigrate to the United States at the expense of the Austrian government. Many of them would have preferred to join the "Great Emigration" in France, but the French King, Louis Philippe, was becoming nervous about the number of foreign revolutionaries on French soil, so most of them opted for the second choice. They were sent to the port of Trieste and on November 21, 1833, 234 of them were shipped on two Austrian frigates, the *Hebe* and the *Guerriere*, to the United States, docking in New York harbor on March 28, 1834.<sup>5</sup>

While still on board ship, having unanimously decided that they were exiles against their will and not willing immigrants, they made an agreement to remain together and to that end formed a committee to represent them in their dealings with the Americans. The initial action of this "Polish Committee" was to draft a petition to the United States Congress asking for a grant of land and saying in part: "Although pilgrims in a foreign land, with nothing but the sad recollection of the past and hopes for the future, we wish to live a life of active industry and become useful to the country of our adoption." As each one left his ship he was given the sum of \$33.00 by the Austrian consul.<sup>6</sup>

Committees were formed in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and other cities to aid the exiles, and the new arrivals were gradually moved away from New York in small groups. As for the land grant requested for a "New Poland" or "Little Poland," the Congress stipulated that the exiles would have to pay \$1.25 per acre for a township of land of their choice in either Illinois or Michigan. They could pay for it over a long period, but would have to provide their own transportation and farming implements. The "grant" was for the original group of 234 and not for anyone coming in the future. The vision of a "New Poland" ultimately disappeared and by 1840 was nothing more than a shattered dream. Although there were many who awaited the first chance to return to Europe or to go to Mexico or South America, many of those who remained did manage to achieve a measure of success, becoming teachers, musi-

<sup>5</sup> Jerzy J. Leski, *A Polish Chapter in Jacksonian America: the United States and the Polish Exiles of 1831* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1958).

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Wioznerzak, "Pre- and proto-ethnics: Poles in the United States before the immigration 'after bread.'" *The Polish Review*, vol. 21, no. 3 (1976), pp. 7-38.

cians, cartographers and engineers.<sup>7</sup>

Attempts to complete the recorded knowledge of Wierzbicki's life in the United States have resulted in many speculations and generalizations which have been repeated and expanded to the point where it is sometimes difficult to separate fact from fiction, but by piecing together the various narratives and documenting the evidence we can make some reasoned deductions which serve to fill some of the existing gaps, so that gradually a composite picture emerges.<sup>8</sup> It was always assumed that upon arrival in New York Wierzbicki went to Illinois. George D. Lyman even says that "peniless and alone he was unable to develop his land."<sup>9</sup> Rev. Ladislas Siekaniec, in his short but thoroughly researched and documented account states that the "medical school where he studied and whether he actually earned a doctorate in medicine are still unknown."<sup>10</sup> Dr. Alexander Rytel says that "due to lack of funds he left Illinois for the Medical Academy of New England."<sup>11</sup> There is no evidence that he went to Illinois; the known dates of his other activities do not support this claim.

The present author believes, based upon her research, that the family which, according to Lyman, took him in and sponsored his further education, was actually the family of a physician under whom he served his apprenticeship and that the Medical Academy of New England, for which no records exist, was in fact what was then called the Medical Institution of Yale College. Contrary to Mieczyslaw Haiman, the noted Polish American historian, who claimed that Wierzbicki did not attend Yale,<sup>12</sup> correspondence with the Historical Librarian of the Yale University School of Medicine reveals that some years ago a scholar there compiled a list of graduates, non-graduates and honorary degree recipients between the years 1814 and 1860. Wierzbicki is listed among the non-graduates for the year 1835-36. In all probability he also served at least a partial apprenticeship before that. Whether he graduated with an M.D. degree in the sense that we know it today is doubtful, hence the listing under non-graduates. However, medical education at that time was largely based on apprenticeship and how long a

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 16-18.

<sup>8</sup> General biographical information about Wierzbicki was obtained from Haiman, *Wierzbicki*; George D. Lyman, *Introduction to Wierzbicki's California as it is and as it may be, or, a guide to the gold region* (San Francisco: Grubborn Press, 1933); Ladislas J. Siekaniec, *The Polish Contribution to Early American Education* (San Francisco: R & E Research Associates, 1976).

<sup>9</sup> Lyman edition of *California*

<sup>10</sup> Siekaniec.

<sup>11</sup> Alexander Rytel, "Dr. Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki—first geographer and medical historian of California," *Polish Medical Science and History Bulletin*, vol. 5 (July, 1962), pp. 83-88.

<sup>12</sup> Haiman, *Wierzbicki*.

student spent in formal studies varied with the qualifications he wanted. According to the requirements of the Medical Institution of Yale College, every candidate for practice was required to spend three years in professional study with an experienced physician (two if he had already been to college) and attend one course of lectures at the Medical Institution if he wanted a license to practice medicine. If he wanted a degree he was required to take two courses, one of which had to be taken at the Medical Institution.<sup>13</sup> Therefore it seems likely that Wierzbicki obtained a license rather than a degree. That he subsequently appended the initials M.D. after his name may have been a personal vanity as there was little or no control over licensing in those days.

For the next few years he was presumably completing his apprenticeship, teaching French and establishing his medical practice. We can assume that in 1841 he was living in Providence, Rhode Island, as the preface to his pamphlet *The Ideal Man* is inscribed with his initials, that date and Providence, Rhode Island. He is listed in that city's Directory for 1844 as F. P. Wierzbicki, physician.

According to Rev. Siekaniec, Wierzbicki, even though living in Providence, either kept in touch with Polish activity in New York City, or the Polish groups in that city called upon him for special events and functions. In November, 1844, a public mass meeting was held under the auspices of the recently formed [1842] Association of Poles in America [Towarzystwo Polaków w Ameryce] to commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Polish November Uprising of 1830. The meeting was held in the Stuyvesant Institute of New York "amid much splendor," and among those who gave speeches in English was Wierzbicki, who was also considered one of the Association's commissioners. In his speech he attacked the Polish gentry and the Jesuits as contributing to Poland's downfall. His stand naturally contributed to dissension and caused a split in the organization between those who supported his view and those who supported the pro-monarchist stance of an organization called the Third of May Society [Towarzystwo Trzeciego Maja].

Wierzbicki also helped to organize the Polish-Slavonian Literary Association which was founded by Caspar Tochman in New York State in 1846 "to promote the diffusion of knowledge of the History, Science and Literature of the nations of the Slavonic race." Theodore Sedgwick, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe and Horace

<sup>13</sup> Herbert Thomas, *The Doctors of Yale College, 1702-1815, and the founding of the Medical Institution* (Hamden, CT: Shoe String Press, 1960); Whitfield Bell, "The Medical Institution of Yale College, 1810-1835," *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, vol. 33 (1960-61), pp. 169-83.

Greeley (editor of the *New York Tribune*) were also members of this group.<sup>14</sup>

It is possible that Wierzbicki remained in Providence until 1846 (this is according to Haiman), writing and practising medicine, although there is no certain evidence for this claim. Whether or not he took the advice to "Go West, young man!" it is not surprising in light of his revolutionary activities in Poland and his continued political activism after his arrival in the United States that we next hear of Wierzbicki when, encouraged by his friend Colonel Francis Lippett, he joined Stevenson's New York Regiment of Volunteers in September, 1846, to participate in the Mexican War. However, he applied too late to receive a commission and at his own request was assigned instead as a steward with Company H on a hospital ship with the rank of sergeant. He received a promise that as soon as a vacancy occurred he would be given the rank of surgeon. Upon his arrival in San Francisco on March 26th, 1847, when it was determined that the hospital ship was no longer required, Stevenson violated his promise and Wierzbicki lost not only his position but also his rank. With this, Wierzbicki wrote to General Kearny requesting release from the service. Stevenson wrote in response: "I have no hesitation in saying that he is perfectly useless as a soldier and in that capacity can be of no further use to the government" and agreed that he might be better occupied in some other profession. With an honorable discharge and this doubtful blessing, Wierzbicki once more entered civilian life.<sup>15</sup>

Haiman says simply that Wierzbicki then "attained the rank of Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army, his second discharge being dated 1855," giving no reason for this peculiar state of affairs. However, according to military records, Wierzbicki entered into a contract with the Army on November 21, 1847 in Santa Barbara, to act as surgeon to approximately 69 soldiers for which he was to receive the sum of \$30.00 per month since, as the record states, "no other competent physician can be obtained at a lower rate." At that time he must have transferred to Company F under Colonel Lippett, which was immediately assigned to Santa Barbara upon its arrival in San Francisco.<sup>16</sup> His duties cannot have been too arduous, in fact they appear to have been almost a sinecure, for he managed to take a four-month journey throughout the state, write a book about his

<sup>14</sup> Lerski, *Wieczerszak*, p. 21.

<sup>15</sup> Mexican War military file record for Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki, Company F & H, 7th New York Volunteers, August 1, 1846-August 18, 1848; Mieczyslaw Haiman, "Polish Pioneers of California," *Annals of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum*, vol. 5 (1940), pp. 39-43.

<sup>16</sup> Medical officer file for F. P. Wierzbicki, November 21, 1847, in the United States Adjutant General's Office.

travels, acquire several lots in San Francisco, and become active in the political life of that city, all within the space of about two or three years.

He became involved in San Francisco civic affairs almost immediately upon his arrival in that city. His first step was to present a copy of his treatise *The Ideal Man* to General Marian Guadalupe Vallejo, well-known leader of the Mexican faction in California who was well-disposed to Americans living in the area.<sup>17</sup> On June 14th, 1847, a public meeting was held in the city at which a committee was appointed to seek evidence against the fitness of John C. Frémont to serve as governor.<sup>18</sup> Wierzbicki is listed among the "prominent" men appointed to that committee. Soon thereafter came the publication of his book *California as it is and as it may be; or, A guide to the gold region*, in mid-1849, and such was the popularity with which the work was received that Wierzbicki added two chapters and a second edition appeared a few months later. In today's terms it was a "best-seller." He wrote it following his journey throughout the state because he had become so totally disillusioned by the false information and expectations which had been given to those who had flocked to the mines that he determined to rectify the matter. While giving practical advice on how to prepare for mining gold, Wierzbicki made it clear that the future of California lay not in gold but in other minerals, and that the country was also eminently suitable for farming. He called for government assistance for those who wished to develop the state. Joseph Augustine Benton, called the "father of Congregationalism" in California, delivered a sermon on Thanksgiving Day, 1850, with the title "California as she was; as she is; as she is to be," the contents of the sermon bearing much resemblance to Wierzbicki's book.<sup>19</sup>

The book initially sold well, but as Wierzbicki's advice and prophecies took hold, the price fell and by 1853, according to Haiman, it had dropped to 25¢ per copy. Since that time, because of its rarity and place in the history of California, the price has risen considerably, and on one occasion even reached as high as \$600.

Wierzbicki requested Ferdinand Ewer, an acquaintance, to write a review of his book and have it published in the *Pacific News*. Ewer apparently did so, and as a result, during talks with Charles Eames, then editor of the newspaper, Ewer was offered the position

<sup>17</sup> Haiman, *Wierzbicki*.

<sup>18</sup> Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of California and Pioneer Register, 1846-1848*, vol. 5, p. 774.

<sup>19</sup> Joseph Augustine Benton, *California as she was; as she is; as she is to be*, a printed Thanksgiving sermon delivered in the First Church of Christ (Congregational), Sacramento City, in 1850.



of editor, which he assumed on January 1, 1850.<sup>20</sup> Whether the review was ever published is not clear. Copies of the *Pacific News* available in libraries today are incomplete, and the issues prior to January 1850 are scattered. As far as can be determined, the review does not appear after January 1. On January 3, 1850, the *Pacific News* carried this advertisement:

New work for sale at this office — *California as it is and as it may be; or A Guide to the Gold Region* by F.P. Wierzbicki M.D. A work that should be in the hands of every person visiting the country for whatever purpose. Price \$3.00

A few days later, on January 12, Ferdinand Ewer wrote: "We would inform our readers that Dr. Wierzbicki has decided to place the price of his valuable work on California, for today and Monday, at half price (\$1.50) in order to accommodate those of the public who would wish to send the work home to their friends." Again on July 7, 1850, the original advertisement appeared, this time in the *Alta California* with the price back at \$3.00. A century later, Hugh Baker, discussing the book trade in California between 1849 and 1859, says that the book's title illustrates the early Californians' interest in factual rather than exaggerated accounts of their own region, while the book itself marks the beginning of publishing in San Francisco.<sup>21</sup> It was translated into German the same year and published in Bremen, Germany.<sup>22</sup> Also in that year, Edwin Bryant, one time Alcalde of San Francisco, who travelled all over the world, wrote a book about his experiences in California. During a trip to the South Pacific he took the time to stop in Tasmania where he arranged to publish this book, in which he incorporated Wierzbicki's treatise, claiming in his preface "the following pages are reprinted from the latest published work on California....It is believed that this publication will supply the *desideratum* so much needed in the Australian colonies, and to meet the numerous enquiries with reference to the new state of California."<sup>23</sup>

Wierzbicki formed a lasting friendship with the Reverend Ewer and his wife Sophie, and in January 1859 he commissioned the artist Fenderich to paint a portrait of Ewer which he presented to Sophie

<sup>20</sup> Henry Raup Wagner, "Life of Ferdinand C. Ewer," Part I, *California Historical Quarterly*, vol. 13, no. 4 (December, 1934), pp. 296-97.

<sup>21</sup> Hugh Baker, "History of the Book Trade in California, 1849-1859," *California Historical Quarterly*, vol. 30 (1951), p. 101.

<sup>22</sup> Felix Pawel Wierzbicki, *Californien wie es ist und wie es werden kann* (Bremen: Loning und Comp., 1850).

<sup>23</sup> Edwin Bryant, *What I Saw in California: being the Journal of a Tour, by Edwin Bryant Esq., late Alcalde of San Francisco. To which is added California as it is, and as it may be, by Dr. Wierzbicki, San Francisco* (Launceston: Henry Dowling, Jr., 1850), contains a map of the gold regions.

as a gift.<sup>24</sup>

In 1856 Wierzbicki was invited to participate in the formation of the California Medical Society and must have been held in some regard for he was appointed as a member of the Standing Committee on Practical Medicine, Medical Literature and Hygiene. He was one of the invited speakers at the initial meeting and was instrumental in establishing the Society's journal, to which he contributed an article on the history of medicine; although, since he did not submit it on time, it did not appear in the first issue.<sup>25</sup> Unfortunately the journal lasted only two years, since in spite of the exhortations of the president, the members were delinquent in paying their dues. Nevertheless, Emmet Rixford called it the first quality medical journal published in California, constituting by far the most interesting and important volume in the history of medicine on the Pacific Coast.<sup>26</sup>

At the initial meeting of the Society, Wierzbicki described the effects of poison oak (*Rhus Diversilobum*), and, according to Lyman, was the first to coin the term "California fever." In his book he described it as a confused type of all fevers, including "ague" and "gold," to which he ascribed the great mortality among those recently arrived in the goldmines.<sup>27</sup> His article on the history of medicine was the first to be published in the state, and was a brief overview of the discipline. The chapter which he added to the second edition of his book, "Medical observations upon the people and the country," was the first report on medical practice in California written in English and forms the second known published medical treatise on California in point of time; the first, written by Dr. M. Rollin, was published in Paris in 1798 but was written in French.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Henry Raup Wagner, "Life of Ferdinand C. Ewer," Part II, *California Historical Quarterly*, vol. 14, no. 1 (March, 1935), p. 78.

<sup>25</sup> Minutes of the Medical Society Meeting, Friday, March 14, 1856, are in *California State Medical Journal*, vol. 1 (July, 1856), p. 13. Another Polish physician, Christian Brevoort Zabriske, also attended the meeting.

<sup>26</sup> Emmet Rixford, "Early California Medical Journals," *California and Western Medicine*, vol. 23, no. 5 (May, 1925), pp. 604-07. There were several attempts during the second half of the nineteenth century to establish medical journals in California, many of which lasted no more than a year or two. Wierzbicki's article has been variously credited to the *California Medical Gazette*, published in Sacramento in 1868-70, and therefore after his death; the *California State Journal of Medicine*, which began publication in 1902, and after several title changes is still published as the *Western Journal of Medicine*; and the *State Journal of Medicine*. The journal of the California Medical Society in which Wierzbicki published his article on the history of medicine was actually the *California State Medical Journal*.

<sup>27</sup> George D. Lyman, "The Beginnings of California's Medical History," *California and Western Medicine*, vol. 23 (1925), pp. 561-76.

<sup>28</sup> M. Rollin, "Physiological and pathological monograph on the Americas," in Charles N. Rudkin (transl. and ed.), *The First French Expedition to California: Laperouse, 1786* (Los

It has been well established that *California* was the first book to be published in the English language in the State of California. The evidence is incontrovertible; from 1860 to the present the book has been consistently and authoritatively credited as such.<sup>29</sup> It has ensured a degree of immortality for its author and is an exemplary measure of what can be achieved by persistence and perseverance through foreign customs, a completely different language and often difficult living conditions. Indeed, these very conditions, as described by Wierzbicki, were quoted by Josiah Royce, one of America's most distinguished philosophers, in his classic nineteenth century account of the Far West.<sup>30</sup>

One of the most remarkable aspects of Wierzbicki's writings is the quality of his English prose. He is easier to read today than many of his American-born contemporaries. His style flows, his grammar is correct and there are few of the minute linguistic errors which so often characterize the writings of those whose mother tongue is not English. The hallmark of an educated man of that time was his familiarity with the classics, and the writings of such men were apt to be ornate, full of allusions to Greek mythology, grandiose and flowery. Wierzbicki was no exception, but he was somewhat more practical in his approach and did not use an ornate style to cover up lack of substance, as was sometimes the case with other writers.

Wierzbicki achieved no glamor, apparently never married and had no progeny, yet what he achieved did not perish with him. In New York he was an unrelenting campaigner for Poland, and whatever his opinions may have been he did not hesitate to express them. He consistently espoused the cause of liberty, and his writings on the history of Poland have as much relevance to events today as they had to the events of his time.

Ultimately what had begun as a hobby during his visits to the gold mines became an extension of his everyday work. In the 1858, 1859 and 1860 San Francisco directories we find him listed as a weighman in the U. S. Mint (his name being spelled variously as Wierbricker, Wiersbickie, and Wierzbicki). In the *State Register and Yearbook of Facts* for the year 1857, published in San Francisco, he is listed under physicians and as a member of the San Francisco Medical Society and the San Francisco County Medical and

Chirurgical Association as E. P. Wiersbicki, and is listed under Physicians in the 1858 city directory, although not in the 1859 or 1860 editions. Did he cease to practice medicine, and if so, why? He was only forty-four years old at the time, so had probably not retired. We shall probably never know, for on December 26, 1860, Wierzbicki died, a victim of his own remedies, as his death notice indicates.

DEATH OF DR. WIERZBICKI. — Dr. Wierzbicki, of the U.S. Branch Mint, died at 2 o'clock A.M. at his residence on California Street. Dr. W. was well known throughout the United States as the author of the first work on California's mines, he having arrived here in 1848, and made, on the discovery of gold, the treatment of precious metals his special study. He was a Pole by birth, and was, at an early age, exiled on account of his revolutionary action. He was the author of several elementary works on the French, German and Polish tongues, as well as a host of scientific subjects. Dr. W., like most medical men, had a hobby as a specific, and that hobby accelerated his death. For some weeks past, he had been confined to his room with congestion of the lungs, but it appears he had little confidence in his own profession, for he did not take any of the prescriptions his medical adviser left. Strange to say, he was gradually recovering when he conceived that a vapor bath, a favorite Muscovite remedy, would cure him. He tried one, without the knowledge of his physician, and was remonstrated with. On Monday, in all the rain, he went out and took a vapor bath, and on returning home he took an emetic. He gradually sank under this severe ordeal, and died as stated. As a scientific man, Dr. W. had few superiors.<sup>31</sup>

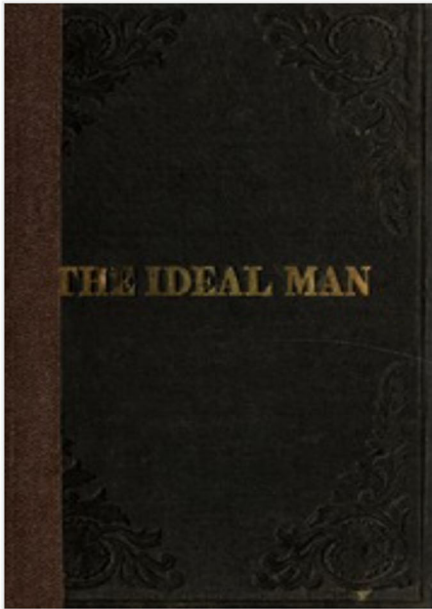
Angeles: 1959).

<sup>29</sup> Bancroft and Lyman, among others.

<sup>30</sup> Josiah Royce, *California, from the Conquest in 1846 to the Second Vigilance Committee in San Francisco: a Study of American Character* (Santa Barbara: Peregrine Publishers, 1970), p. 298.

<sup>31</sup> *Alta California*, December 27, 1860.

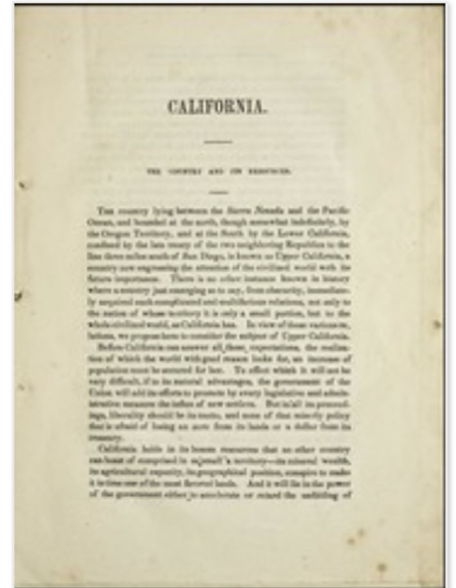
[https://archive.org/search.php?query=Wierzbicki&and\[\]=creator%3A%22wierzbicki%2C+felix+paul%2C+1815-1860%22](https://archive.org/search.php?query=Wierzbicki&and[]=creator%3A%22wierzbicki%2C+felix+paul%2C+1815-1860%22)



The ideal man : a conversation between  
by Wierzbicki, Felix Paul, 1815-1860: Philokalist



California as it is, and as it may be: or A  
by Wierzbicki, Felix Paul, 1815-1860



California as it is, and as it may be  
by Wierzbicki, Felix Paul, 1815-1860: Littell. Clarence Guv.