



IMAGES
of America

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Garvey



This 1970s image shows SFPD officers on Powell Street with a cable car in the background. Years later, MUNI Cable Car operator Carl Payne, a 10-time cable car bell ringer winner, left his job at age 47 to become a SFPD officer. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



This solo officer poses on a Harley Davidson near the Golden Gate Bridge, c. 1970. (Courtesy of SFPD.)

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of the San Francisco Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions, and diversity of our City. In order to protect life and property, prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime, we will provide service with

understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity, and law enforcement with vision.

San Francisco Police Department

John Garvey

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Fax 843-853-0044

E-mail sales@arcadiapublishing.com

For customer service and orders:

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the memory of the officers of the SFPD who have died in the line of duty, as well as to those who have died as a result of their injuries off duty or were murdered off duty (these are not considered line-of-duty deaths). Also to SFPD officers injured and disabled in the line of duty.

I especially dedicate this to my great-great uncle SFPD Policeman Edward Maloney, star # 146, who was shot in the line of duty and died the late evening of April 19, 1915 at the corner of Sacramento and Davis Streets. His grave at Mission Santa Clara Cemetery has a tombstone engraved with 24 shamrocks. His killer Charles Felker (Anton Staninakis), alias Carl Fisher #24847, was sentenced to life in prison in San Quentin and his companion Otto Walker #24848 was sentenced to 15 years at San Quentin.

An old red scrapbook sat in the hallway closet of my parents home during my youth. It showed that Edward was one of 10 children, 7 boys and 3 girls, and 5 of the boys became policemen, 4 in San Francisco and 1 in Denver. The yellowish press clipping stated his last words to his partner Special Policeman Samuel McCain were "My God Sam, he got me." Officer Maloney never returned home to his wife, Anna, and six-month-old son Thomas Edward on Clement Street. His last watch ended that night at age 32 and he is memorialized like other fallen officers, on the City of San Francisco Memorial Wall (Hall of Justice) and State of California Memorial (Sacramento); and the National Law Enforcement Memorial, Panel 20, E3 in Washington, D.C.

To my grandmother, Mary Maloney, whom I called Nana. When I was eight years old she gave me a police alabaster whistle that belonged to her father, Joseph P. Maloney. I blew it a few times in front of Nana, and treasured it, and promised not to lose it. My grandmother died shortly thereafter and the old scrapbook and the whistle, led to my curiosity and to this book. I also dedicate this book to the memory of my cousin former SFPD Police Chief Michael Mitchell.

Last, I dedicate this book to Jeffery Fontana my former co-worker at the San Francisco 49ers Headquarters in Santa Clara. In October of 2001, Officer Jeffery Fontana of the San Jose Police Department (SJPD) was gunned down during a routine traffic stop. Today people can remember his service and honor him, as they enjoy Jeffery Fontana Park in San Jose, California.

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COVER IMAGE. SFPD officers are in formation for the funeral of their brother, bluecoat Edward Maloney, star 146, in this somber April 1915 San Francisco street scene.

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In addition, I thank Jo-Ellen Radetich, who shared many items belonging to her beloved brother Richard, who was assassinated in the line of duty in 1970 in the Haight-Ashbury district. Jo-Ellen has spent her life keeping his memory alive in the form of memorials, committee work with other survivors of law enforcement deaths, and as a member of Bay Area Law Enforcement Families (BALEF).

Thanks goes to Patricia Akre, photographic curator, John Eby, and the rest of Susan Goldstein's staff at the San Francisco Public Library History Room. Thanks also goes to Erica Nordmeier, photographic duplication coordinator at the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley. I also thank the helpful archivists at the Gerald R. Ford Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Kenneth G. Hafeli and Helmi Raaska, who located U.S. Secret Service assassination attempt photographs for me as well as presidential correspondence.

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To the staff at Arcadia Publishing in San Francisco, Chicago, and Charleston, I am thankful, especially to editor John Poultney and publisher Christine Talbot.

INTRODUCTION

If one does an Internet search on the San Francisco Police Department, or its acronym “SFPD,” one may form a false opinion that the SFPD is spiraling out of control. For example, in 2004 the *San Francisco Chronicle* on its front page presents the department as being on a “roller coaster” ride over the last decade, saying it is in “crisis” mode. In 1993, critics pointed out what was wrong with the department by making in-house training videos such as “Lifestyles of the Poor and Lazy.” In 1994, the *San Francisco Examiner* in a bold header wrote, “SFPD Hiring Too Many Bad Apples.” The attacks on the SFPD are relentless, and the media has been the first to find fault with the SFPD. Compliments in recent years have been rare, and emphasis has been on the negative. Because of this, one SFPD officer lamented that the only thing the local newspapers were good for was toilet tissue.

Internet stories are rampant with several high-profile cases over the last decade concerning the top brass in several alleged actions: cover-up, sexual harassment, writing a questionable résumé of qualifications, public intoxication, and driving a motor vehicle under the influence. One can learn about a 2004 lawsuit filed by a former chief of police for \$33 million against the City of San Francisco for his medical situation. Another chief, in 1992, was fired by the police commission after just 42 days on the job for allegedly having a few of his cops pull issues of the *Bay Times* from the street racks. The newspaper had written an unfavorable article about him and published an image of this particular chief holding a nightstick between his legs in a suggestive manner. The *Bay Guardian* published a Dolezal cartoon in 2004 showing a former police chief fighting with his son, a former officer—the latter with his right hand on the father’s throat and a gun pointed at the father’s head and the father with a knife in his right hand pointed at his son’s head and a broken bottle in his left hand. This violent incident never happened. The press distorted reality and did a great disservice to the SFPD. The latter paper also referred to the force as having “cowboy cops.”

A miniscule few rank-and-file officers have been accused of several alleged actions including shoplifting, suspect abuse, improper use of a nightstick and pepper spray, cheating at the academy (instructors providing students with answers), wrongful deaths, and sexual activity while on duty. The media has enthusiastically reported these incidents, going back to April 1984 and the infamous Rathskeller case, in which a young recruit who was partying was handcuffed and provided with sexual attention by a prostitute allegedly paid for by some officers. A female officer stepped forward to report the incident and later filed a \$2 million harassment suit.

Then there was “Fajitagate,” the off-duty November 2002 street brawl incident when then San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan, who later sent the case to a grand jury, stated on a television news program that the police department’s investigation of the fight “hadn’t been handled as an ordinary case” and had “almost Watergate aspects to it.” Peter Keane, dean of the Golden Gate University School of Law, said “this was the first time since the Boss Tweed era in the 1870s in New York City that the entire top commanders of a big city police department had faced criminal charges. Later, when the facts were fully known, the mug shots taken of these high-ranking SFPD officials were destroyed by court order.

Back in 1864, the SFPD was fortunate to have journalists such as Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) reporting in the San Francisco papers accurate accounts of police activity. However, things changed in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. I have learned again and again as a historian to be suspicious of things in the newspaper or on the internet and to never judge a person's character and career on one incident—or alleged incident. In the majority of these incidents, if one follows them through to the end, one will discover the officers were unfairly accused and exonerated on all charges.

Given this, my purpose is not to write another piece that plays the blame game and drags the department through the mud. My purpose is to bring to light the fine traditions and the outstanding women and men of the SFPD. I hope you will enjoy this book about the brave people we call San Francisco Police Officers. Only a few are chosen to wear the famed seven-point star or the patrol special six-point Star of David which, by the way, are never called badges.

When my San Francisco home was burglarized in 1985, the responding officer quipped, "Crime never takes a holiday in San Francisco." He was absolutely correct, as you will discover. The SFPD have a bumper sticker and a poster that reads, "Thank God for the TAC squad." As a native San Franciscan who has seen the SFPD in action my entire life, I say "Thank God for the SFPD."

Let us now honor their service and be thankful for their commitment and willingness to sacrifice their lives for us in the line of duty. During the course of my research on the San Francisco Police Department, I found thousands of examples of heroism and am proud to present some of those to you now.

One

1849–1900



Malachi Fallon was one of six early San Francisco police chiefs known as marshals. Fallon was born in County Athlone, Ireland, in 1814 and emigrated to America with his family as a young boy. He grew up in New York City and ran a saloon as well as served as a jailer at the Tombs Prison. Fallon came to San Francisco during the Gold Rush in 1849 and was appointed city marshal, receiving a \$6,000 salary. Initially, the SFPD had no training, equipment, or uniforms. Their first office was a pre-Gold Rush schoolhouse in Portsmouth Square. The city's marshals were Malachi Fallon (1850–1851, 1852–1853), R.G. Crozier (1851–1852), W.C. Thompson (part of 1852), Brandt Sequine (1853), John W. McKenzie (1854), and Ham North (1855). (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



J. McElroy served as police chief for part of 1856 and was followed by James F. Curtis from 1856 to 1857. Police Chief Martin J. Burke, shown here, served from 1858 to 1866. During his stint as police chief, the SFPD became the first police department in the nation to use photography in police work. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



These two pistols were believed to have been used in the historic duel between U.S. Senator David C. Broderick and California State Supreme Court Justice David S. Terry on September 12, 1859. The duel, considered the last one fought in the State of California, almost did not happen. As preparations were being made for the duel Chief of Police Martin Burke and a couple of officers arrested the principals and brought them before Justice of the Peace Henry Coon, who discharged them on the ground that no actual misdemeanor had been committed. Despite fruitless efforts made by friends on both sides, the men squared off again the next day at the same location, a little over the line in San Mateo County, and Terry won. Although he was indicted and tried in San Rafael, he was ultimately acquitted. In December 1963, these famous pistols, set in a wood case with 19 pieces of loading and

cleaning equipment, were reported missing from the Wells Fargo Bank History Room. They were recovered and were most recently sold by Butterfield and Butterfield at auction. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



Patrick Crowley was one of the city's early pioneers. In his youth he pulled boats on the waterfront for the ship captains. Later he was elected constable and then served as San Francisco police chief from 1866 to 1873 and from 1879 to 1897. Crowley initially had a force of less than 100 men to deal with riots and gangs such as the Sons of Freedom, the Revolutionary Committee, the Potrero Toughs, and the Sandloters. The Sons of Freedom were broken up after several members of Crowley's force infiltrated the secretive group that met around a skull at midnight at Market and Ninth Streets to plan their ghoulish crimes. The Revolutionary Committee operated out of a den at Lombard and Montgomery Streets producing bombs, but Crowley stopped them as well. The Potrero Toughs hung out in the sand dunes and creek and were anti-Chinese. When the Sandloters were making inroads in the city government Crowley threaten to arrest the mayor himself. Crowley died on May 10, 1929. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



George Washington Hogue joined the SFPD in 1876. Born in Summit County, Ohio, in 1832, he joined the Sacramento Rangers in August 1861 as part of Company F, 2nd Volunteer Cavalry and spent most of the Civil War at the Benicia Arsenal. Before he joined the SFPD he was a longshoreman. In 1880, after only four years on the force, he resigned due to heart problems and died in 1890. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



*The famous Chinatown squad, posing in front of 25 Taylor Street in 1859, included, from left to right officers J.M. Gee, Coleman, police clerk August Pistolesi, Sergeant Price, Moriarity, and J.M. Murray.
(Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)*



*In 1886 C.W. Armanger went to Irvin Jachen to request a seven-pointed star, which represents the seven seals in the Book of Revelation in the New Testament and include virtue, divinity, prudence, fortitude, honor, glory, and praising God. The star was adopted by the police force to remind everyone of the precepts by which the police are guided. The first SFPD policeman to wear a star was Isaiah V. Lees, who wore the six-pointed Star of David in 1853, which evolved into a five-pointed star, then into the seven-pointed star. The star is always worn on the left breast, traditionally the vulnerable part of the body. This image shows the various stars of SFPD regulars. Numbers continue to be important for some officers today. Many Asian officers prefer to have an eight on their star, which is considered lucky. They do not want a four because in Japanese, the number four is shi, which also means “death.”
(Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)*

Two

1901–1950



Police Chief William Sullivan Jr. (1900–1901) had a force that was on duty for 6 hours, then off for 6 hours, worked another 6 hours, and then had 12 hours off. This schedule was in use as early as 1895 and possibly even earlier under previous chiefs Theodore G. Cockrill (1874–1876), Henry H. Ellis (1876–1877), John Kirpatrick (1878–1879), and Isaiah W. Lees (1898–1900). (Courtesy San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



George Wittman served as police chief from 1901 to 1905. Notice the seven-pointed star floral arrangement above his head. Wittman was a tinsmith and joined the SFPD in 1884. While chief he personally led raids on gambling and opium dens in Chinatown, but the city administration opposed him for such vigorous law enforcement. He is buried in Alameda. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



This photograph shows the Hall of Justice prior to its destruction in the great earthquake and fire of 1906. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



In this image a San Francisco police officer directs a clean-up crew after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Following the quake, Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz issued the following proclamation: “The Federal Troops, the members of the Regular Police Force and all Special Police Officers have been authorized by me to KILL any and all persons engaged in Looting or the Commission of Any Other Crime . . . ”

2003 fictional book on this natural disaster has done a disservice to the SFPD by asserting that a large number of citizens were shot by police as looters. The reality was that only a few were shot, not the unsubstantiated 500 claimed on promotional tours by the book’s author. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



James Thomas Graham, star 237, was born in 1874 and was a member of the SFPD from 1900 until h

death in 1935. Both his brothers, George and Robert Graham, were also San Francisco cops. James' beat was in the South of Market Area along Second Street, an area hit hard by the 1906 earthquake and where much of the looting occurred. (Courtesy of Tom Graham.)



Park Station officers, pictured here c. 1906, included John “Jack” Lynch (front row, second from right). Lynch was shot in the neck during the robbery of the Haight Street Theatre and survived. (Courtesy of Tom Rey, SFFD Truck No. 1.)



Police Chief Jeremiah F. Dinan (1905–1907) is shown in the first police car in the history of the SFPD. Notice the steering wheel on the right. In 1907 the SFPD was one of the first in the nation to use fingerprinting as a means of identification. Policemen hired at this time had to know their reading, writing, and arithmetic. The four math problems in Part 3 of the June 1907 exam were as follows: (1

add 94,592 + 76,259 + 68,542 + 3,007 + 87; (2) subtract 79,907 from 961,406; (3) divide 476,672 by 107; and (4) multiply 59,764 by 447. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



On the night of November 30, 1908, Police Chief William Biggy (1907–1908) took the police launch across the bay to Belvedere to confer with Police Commissioner Hugo Kiel. Biggy and engineer Murphy were the only people aboard the launch. They started back from Belvedere about 11:20 p.m. but when the launch reached the dock in San Francisco, Biggy was not on board. On December 14 his body was found floating near Goat Island. There was speculation, but never any verification, as to whether Biggy committed suicide or whether he was accidentally washed overboard. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



Jesse Brown Cook (1860–1938) was a member of the San Francisco Police Department from the 1890s to the 1930s and chief of police from 1908 to 1910. He began as a beat cop, then rose through the ranks to become sergeant of the Chinatown Squad. After retiring as chief of police he later returned to the force as police commissioner. Before joining the police force he studied taxidermy; worked as a sailor, drayman, and butcher; and toured Europe as a contortionist. His police career began in San Antonio and San Diego before he relocated to San Francisco. Cook compiled thousands of photographs and clippings into a unique portrayal of early 20th-century San Francisco; the collection is housed at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



Police Chief J.B. Martin saw Park Station constructed under his watch in 1910. The station was built despite the strong objection of John McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate Park, who believed that no building should be constructed within the confines of the park. (Courtesy of San Francisco Historical Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



Police Chief John F. Seymour (1911), like other chiefs at the turn of the century, had many outstanding recruits from different nations. One of them, Yugoslavian-born Virgil N. Bakulich (SFPD 1894–1919) could write, speak, and read Greek, Russian, Slovenian, Italian, German, and English and is believed to be the most able linguist the department ever had. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)



Police Chief D.A. White (1911–1920) was knighted and received two orders from King Albert of Belgium, who, on a visit to San Francisco in 1918, took a great liking to the kindly, well-met man. During White's term the SFPD became one of the first police departments in the country to employ women when three "Women Protective Officers" were hired in 1913. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.)

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