



SAN FRANCISCO
BUREAU OF URBAN SECRETS

IN OMNIA PARATUS

DATE: 14 FEBRUARY 2009

CASE NO.: LL-00041

RE:

A Lover's Line thru the Presidio: 8 Stories about Leaving the Presidio,
But Only 1 about Coming Back (because water always runs downhill)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In an unprecedented act of disclosure, the San Francisco Bureau of Secrets makes available long-classified documentation related to an experiment in alternative time-based approaches to landscape exploration conducted by our agent, who has been deployed in the field for longer than we can remember. Or maybe it is just since yesterday.

Each map marks a different encounter on Lovers Lane, a trail long held in interest by the Bureau because its straightness seems to cut through history, rendering distance into something relative, bound as much to time as to place. Each message collected by our agent on her cell phone is perhaps best understood as a brief clue about the motivations of the callers who traveled the Lane, hoping to get from there to where they wanted, or needed, to be. In any case, use these messages, formatted for you as a downloadable podcast, to get started on your own journey through time.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) A Map of Misperceptions, c. 1778
- 2) A Map of True Love, Trying to Find a Way, c. 1806
- 3) A Map of Making Do, & Then Some, c. 1825
- 4) A Map of Foolish Optimism & Sudden Changes of Fortune, c. 1849
- 5) A Map of Straight Lines & Unforeseen Circumstances, c. 1886
- 6) A Map from War to Peace, c. 1903
- 7) A Map of Skipping & Jumping & Wishing You Could Fly, c. 1923
- 8) A Map of Simple Pleasures Sought at Great Risk, c. 1942
- 9) A Map of Bird Song, the Stars, Streams & Seeps, c. Yesterday & Tomorrow

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS:

Download the Lover's Line Podcast at www.presidio.gov/experiences/lovers. Proceed to Lovers Lane in the Presidio of San Francisco. Bring your mp3 player & wear comfortable shoes. An introduction by our Special Agent can be found on Track 1. For Maps 1-8, begin at the Stone Bridge (off Presidio Blvd., near the Main Post). For Map 9, begin at the Presidio Gate (where the Presidio ends and the City begins). Play the track number associated with each map. Listen. And then follow the storyline.

Please obey all posted signs during your journey. You may find that fog, wind, grazing cattle, tree-plantings or other unforeseeable events may cause conditions to differ significantly from our agent's findings. Or not. Truth to tell, time travel is still in beta testing. Until it is perfected, you might just have to make do with art.

Lover's Line is a project of the San Francisco Bureau of Urban Secrets. Originally commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in conjunction with Bay Area Now 5/Ground Scores, it is now hosted by the Presidio Trust and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

1) A Map of Misperceptions

On Sunday, May 17, 1778,

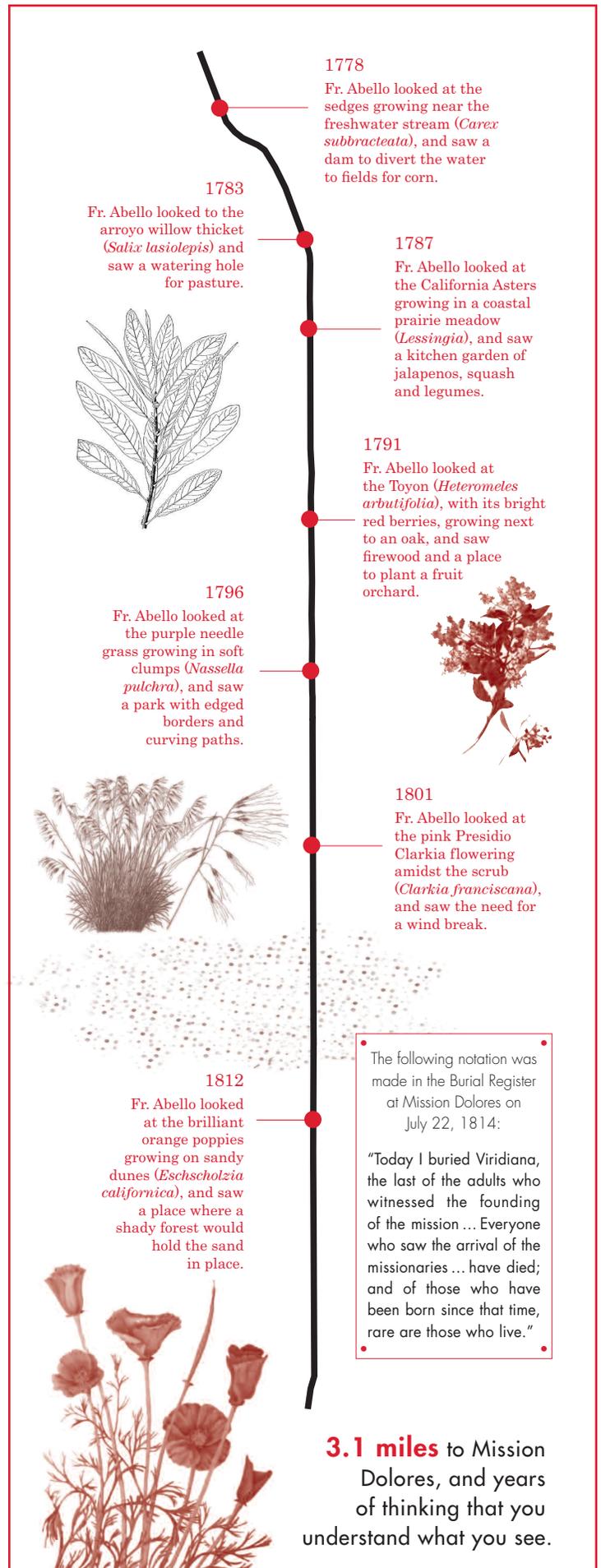
Fernando Abello, a devout Franciscan missionary and ardent amateur botanist, walked from the Presidio to Mission Dolores.

It was a walk he would repeat again and again, like a prayer.

And like some prayers, it was answered, although not without grave consequences.



Fr. Abello's message
can be heard
on Track 2



2) *A Map of True Love,
Trying to Find a Way*

On March 29, 1806,
Doctor Grigori Ivanovitch Langsdorff, a naturalist by training and a romantic by nature, set off for Mission Dolores, where he hoped to secure divine assistance in a personal matter of some urgency.

He couldn't walk fast enough.



Dr. G. H. Von Langsdorff's
message can be heard
on Track 3

MARCH 28, 1806
In desperate need of provisions, the Russian trade ship Juno reaches the harbor of St. Francisco. The landing party is met by 15 Spanish horsemen riding out from the fort.



A LITTLE LATER
Doctor Langsdorff accompanies His Excellency Nikolai Rezanov to shore, where the family of Presidio Commandant Arguello welcomes them with a fine banquet.



THE NEXT DAY
Overnight, Rezanov and Langsdorff both lose their hearts to Arguello's beautiful daughter Concepción. It is here we find the good doctor on his way to Mission Dolores.



BY THE FOLLOWING WEEK
Rezanov eclipses Langsdorff in Concepción's attentions. The naturalist makes do with collecting plant specimens.

SOMETIME IN APRIL
Langsdorff roams the countryside, hoping to see a native bear. Abundant when Europeans first reached the area, they are now as elusive as true love.



MAY 11, 1806
The Juno departs. Langsdorff presses on to Brazil, where he further secures his reputation as a naturalist. Rezanov promises to come back to claim his bride.

A FEW YEARS PASS
Concepción remains faithful, even as hope of Rezanov's return fades.

Still just **3.1 miles** by footpath to Mission Dolores. (But Langsdorff never strictly speaking reached his goal. Rezanov died in 1807, just outside St. Petersburg. And Dona Concepción quietly gave up love for religion.)

3) A Map of Making Do, & Then Some

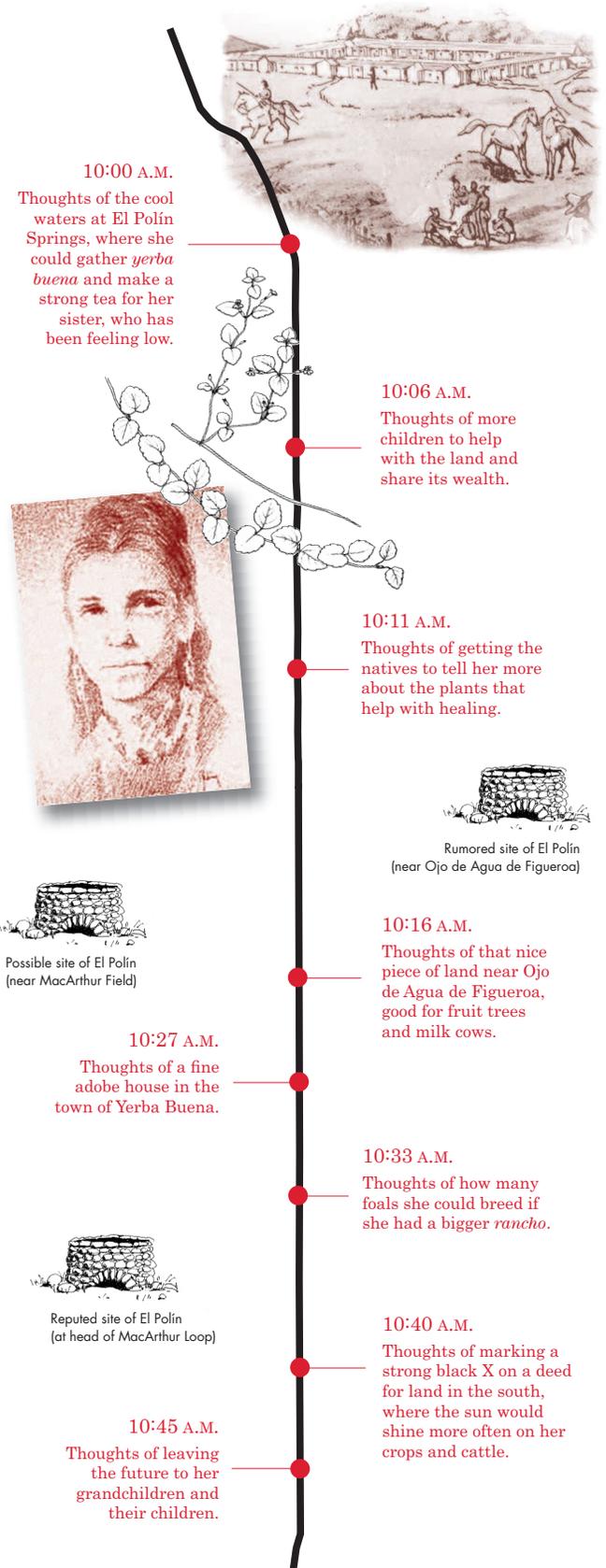
On September 3, 1825,

Juana Briones walked to Yerba Buena, having to her satisfaction just concluded some business at El Presidio. She met no one along the way (or so she would have said).

She used the time to think about her future.



Señora Juana Briones's message can be heard on Track 4



3 miles to Yerba Buena, and a lifetime of making more than you thought you could out of less than you should have had.

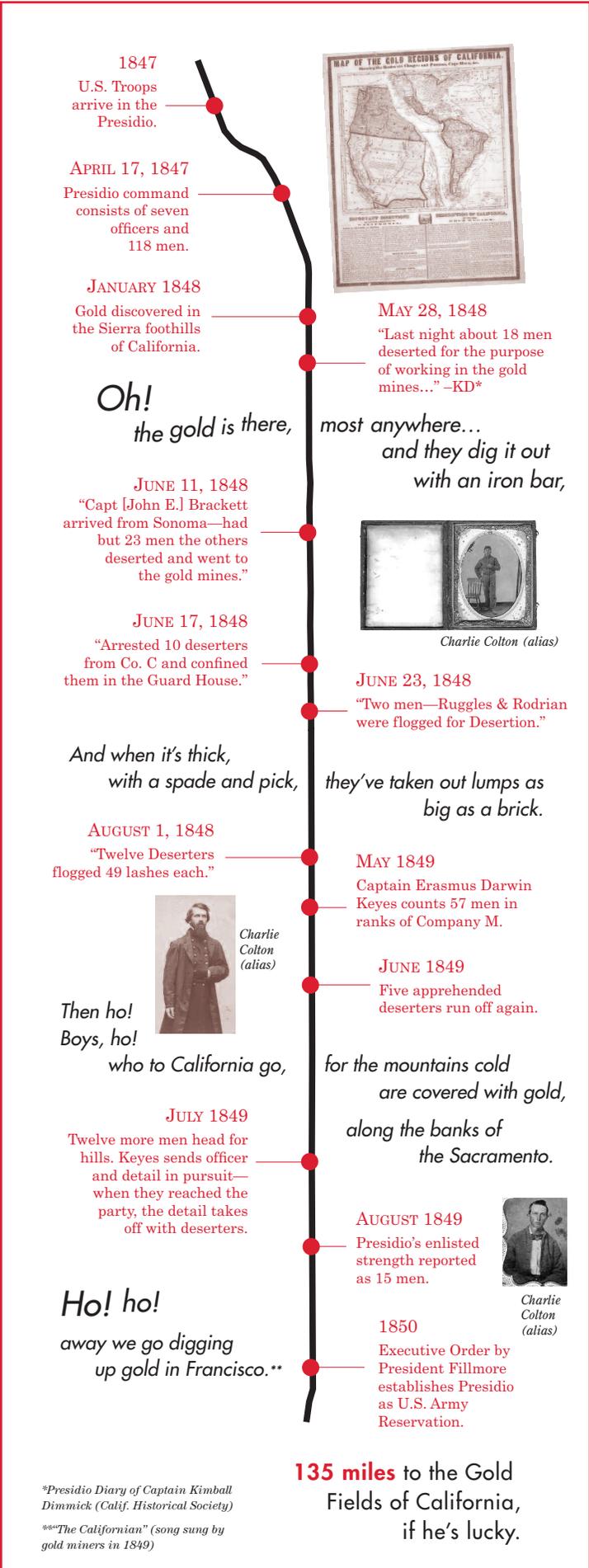
4) *A Map of Foolish Optimism & Sudden Changes of Fortune*

On July 18, 1849,
under cover of darkness, and with only the clothes on his back, Private Charlie Colton (alias) of the 3rd Artillery Regiment left the Presidio, never to return.

He was not alone.



Private Charlie Colton's (alias) message can be heard on Track 5



1847
U.S. Troops arrive in the Presidio.

APRIL 17, 1847
Presidio command consists of seven officers and 118 men.

JANUARY 1848
Gold discovered in the Sierra foothills of California.

MAY 28, 1848
"Last night about 18 men deserted for the purpose of working in the gold mines..." -KD*

*Oh!
the gold is there,
most anywhere...
and they dig it out
with an iron bar,*

JUNE 11, 1848
"Capt [John E.] Brackett arrived from Sonoma—had but 23 men the others deserted and went to the gold mines."

JUNE 17, 1848
"Arrested 10 deserters from Co. C and confined them in the Guard House."

JUNE 23, 1848
"Two men—Ruggles & Rodrian were flogged for Desertion."

*And when it's thick,
with a spade and pick,
they've taken out lumps as
big as a brick.*

AUGUST 1, 1848
"Twelve Deserters flogged 49 lashes each."

MAY 1849
Captain Erasmus Darwin Keyes counts 57 men in ranks of Company M.

JUNE 1849
Five apprehended deserters run off again.

*Then ho!
Boys, ho!
who to California go,
for the mountains cold
are covered with gold,
along the banks of
the Sacramento.*

JULY 1849
Twelve more men head for hills. Keyes sends officer and detail in pursuit—when they reached the party, the detail takes off with deserters.

AUGUST 1849
Presidio's enlisted strength reported as 15 men.

*Ho! ho!
away we go digging
up gold in Francisco.***

1850
Executive Order by President Fillmore establishes Presidio as U.S. Army Reservation.




Charlie Colton (alias)



Charlie Colton (alias)



Charlie Colton (alias)

135 miles to the Gold Fields of California, if he's lucky.

*Presidio Diary of Captain Kimball Dimmick (Calif. Historical Society)
**"The Californian" (song sung by gold miners in 1849)

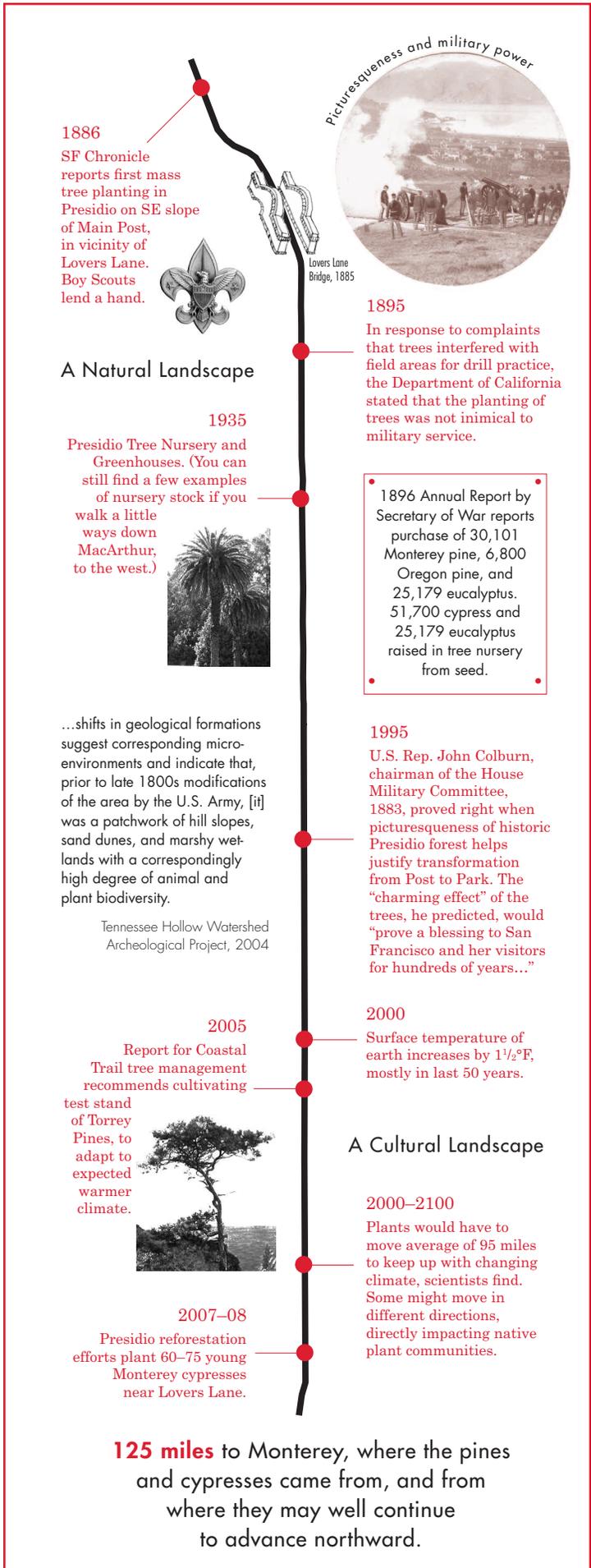
5) *A Map of Straight Lines & Unforeseen Circumstances*

On Saturday, November 27, 1886, staff engineer Major William A. Jones's vision of a Presidio forest moved a little bit closer to reality.

Long after he left the Presidio, the trees are still moving.



Major William A. Jones's message can be heard on Track 6



1886
SF Chronicle reports first mass tree planting in Presidio on SE slope of Main Post, in vicinity of Lovers Lane. Boy Scouts lend a hand.

1895
In response to complaints that trees interfered with field areas for drill practice, the Department of California stated that the planting of trees was not inimical to military service.

1896 Annual Report by Secretary of War reports purchase of 30,101 Monterey pine, 6,800 Oregon pine, and 25,179 eucalyptus. 51,700 cypress and 25,179 eucalyptus raised in tree nursery from seed.

1895
Picturesqueness and military power

1885
Lovers Lane Bridge, 1885

A Natural Landscape

1935
Presidio Tree Nursery and Greenhouses. (You can still find a few examples of nursery stock if you walk a little ways down MacArthur, to the west.)

...shifts in geological formations suggest corresponding micro-environments and indicate that, prior to late 1800s modifications of the area by the U.S. Army, [it] was a patchwork of hill slopes, sand dunes, and marshy wetlands with a correspondingly high degree of animal and plant biodiversity.

Tennessee Hollow Watershed Archeological Project, 2004

1995
U.S. Rep. John Colburn, chairman of the House Military Committee, 1883, proved right when picturesqueness of historic Presidio forest helps justify transformation from Post to Park. The "charming effect" of the trees, he predicted, would "prove a blessing to San Francisco and her visitors for hundreds of years..."

2005
Report for Coastal Trail tree management recommends cultivating test stand of Torrey Pines, to adapt to expected warmer climate.

2000-2100
Plants would have to move average of 95 miles to keep up with changing climate, scientists find. Some might move in different directions, directly impacting native plant communities.

2007-08
Presidio reforestation efforts plant 60-75 young Monterey cypresses near Lovers Lane.

A Cultural Landscape

125 miles to Monterey, where the pines and cypresses came from, and from where they may well continue to advance northward.

6) *A Map from War to Peace*

On April 23, 1903,

Buffalo Soldiers from the 9th U.S. Cavalry rode from the Presidio to Yosemite National Park, where they patrolled in peace, protecting the wilderness from "injury and degradation."

This is what they took with them.



9th U. S. Army Cavalry Officer Augusto Diamond's message can be heard on Track 7

1863
War Department General Order 143 authorizes creation of U.S. Colored Troops.

1869
Est. four regular all-black units: the 9th & 10th Cavalry, the 24th & 25th Infantry.

APRIL 1898
U.S. declares war on Spain. 80,000 volunteer soldiers mobilize at Presidio. All four black units stop in Presidio by 1901.

DECEMBER 1898
End Spanish American War: five Buffalo Soldiers awarded Medal of Honor and 28 receive Certificates of Merit.

1899
Roosevelt revises history; suggests he had to hold 9th Cavalry soldiers at gunpoint to keep them on duty in Cuba.

1899
Tennessee Hollow encampment, 1899: Damp ground and unmanaged sewage creates health problems.

1899-1902
Buffalo soldiers serve in Philippines with distinction, amidst allegations of fraternization with enemy.

1902
Lovers Lane closed to horses—hooves cut up footpath used by women and children (the Buffalo Soldiers are over there on Presidio Boulevard).

1903
Buffalo Soldiers leave for Yosemite, General Grant and Sequoia National Parks. Army provides patrols until National Park Service created in 1916.

1899-1902
I don't think that any Rough Rider will ever forget the tie that binds us to the 9th & 10th Cavalry.
—Teddy Roosevelt after battle of San Juan Hill, 1898

Honor & Discrimination

284 miles and 14 days to Yosemite—around 8 miles per hour on horseback from Post to Park.

The Long Era of Jim Crow Laws & Lynchings Begins...

"Everywhere was sand, deep and fine, blowing into tents, getting into food"

One superintendent remarks, "I am unable to find any records as to the operations of these troops outside of the monthly reports rendered to the Interior Department, but from the present condition of affairs I am convinced that the park was as well guarded and protected as possible..."

7) *A Map of Skipping & Jumping
& Wishing You Could Fly*

On February 14, 1923,
as she had done yesterday and would do
again tomorrow, Isabella Jaye set off for
Pacific Heights Elementary School.
Her dog Delilah came with her.

Nobody was thinking about homework.



A message from Miss
Isabella Jaye, age 10,
can be heard on
Track 8

**JUST AS SHE CROSSED
THE STONE BRIDGE**
Isabella stretched her
arms up toward the
clouds and flew
like a plane.

Can you see clouds?

IN NO TIME AT ALL
Isabella pranced up the
lane like a horse and tried
to jump
higher than
the birds.

Can you spot a bird?

BEFORE SHE KNEW IT
Isabella reached the sandy
hill where the wind
always made her
kite soar.

Can you hear the wind?
(There are trees here now, but
look closely and you can still
see the sandy hill.)

MUCH TOO SOON
Isabella & Delilah reached
Presidio Gate. Isabella sent
Delilah home and walked
on to school by herself.

Do you see a dog?

Delilah always did as she was told.
But sometimes she stopped at the
Officers' Mess to beg for a treat. And
sometimes she stopped to sniff the
interesting puddles in Thompson's
Hollow. And sometimes she stopped
at the Calvary Stables to run with
the horses.

But she was always waiting on the
front porch when Isabella got home.

Just **10 blocks** to school, but it
always seems like it takes
forever to get back to Delilah.

8) *A Map of Simple Pleasures Sought
at Great Risk*

On Saturday, May 9, 1942,
two recent graduates from the 4th Army
Military Intelligence Language School left
the Presidio to eat dinner in Chinatown.

This is what they walked through
to get there.



4th Army Military
Intelligence Language
School Graduate David
Sugimoto's message can
be heard on Track 9



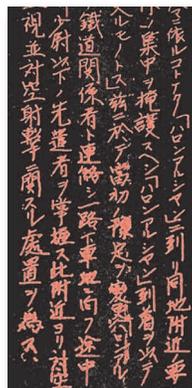
What is the loyalty of
the soldier of Japanese
extraction? How much
can he be depended
upon?

—MIS requests loyalty
review of Nisei soldiers

MAY 1, 1942
First and only
class of the 4th
Army Intelligence
School graduates

EARLY MAY 1942
4th Army orders all
Japanese in SF to
report to assembly
center at Tanforan
Racetrack

Shikata ga nai
(It cannot be helped)



NOVEMBER 1, 1941
Language school opens
in Bldg. 640



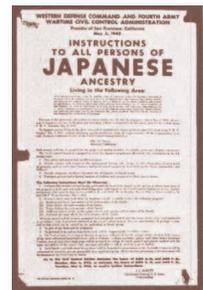
Where lies the proper choice
between rational decision and
heartbreaking human affections?

—John Aiso,
chief instructor, MILS

DECEMBER 7, 1941
Attack on Pearl Harbor

JANUARY 1942
Nisei soldiers
reclassified "4-C"
(enemy aliens)

FEBRUARY 19, 1942
Roosevelt signs Executive
Order 9066



JUNE 1942
Relocation of Language
School to Camp Savage,
Minnesota, renamed the
Military Intelligence
Service Language School

Total chaos
and confusion

1942-1944
MIS graduates serve with
distinction in the Pacific
theater, providing
intelligence, translating
enemy correspondence
and diaries, and saving
lives. Their work is credited
with shortening the war
by at least two years.

A bus ride of only **2.8 miles**
to Chinatown, not counting
the many sleepless nights.

prejudice?

and

patriotism

between

The line

9) *A Map of Bird Song, the Stars,
Streams & Seeps*

On January 1, 1889

or perhaps it was **May 20, 2012**,
the ornithologist and amateur astronomer
Walter Bryant, or perhaps it was his great
great great granddaughter Wendy,
recorded the ebb and swell of birdsong
during a total solar eclipse.

During a momentary lull in
the medley of notes, when the sun was
completely obscured, he/she thought
he/she could hear the water.



A message from the
Tennessee Hollow
Watershed can be heard
on Track 10

