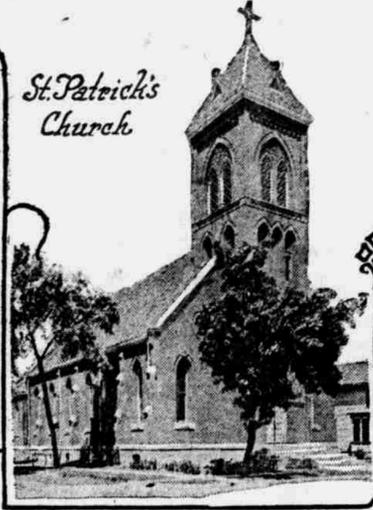


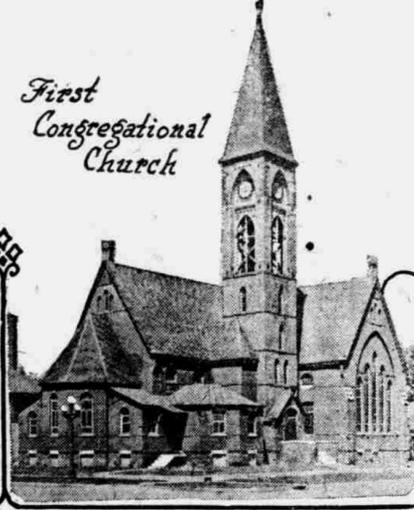
Fremont Points with Pride to Its Many Attractive Churches



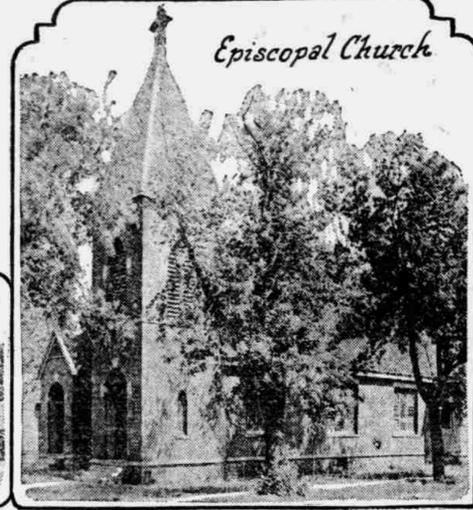
First Christian Church



St. Patrick's Church



First Congregational Church



Episcopal Church

NOTABLE CAREER OF JOHN C. FREMONT

Something About the Soldier and Explorer After Whom the Town Was Named.

Of French ancestry on his father's side and of English ancestry on his mother's side, John Charles Fremont, named after his father, was born in Savannah, Ga., January 12, 1813.

Young Fremont was as talented as his parents and very fond of study. The death of his father was a great loss to him, but he depended all the more upon his mother, and she was everything to him. He was inclined to the study of law and his mother favored his choice.

Accordingly, at 14 he entered the law office of John W. Mitchell, a distinguished lawyer of Charleston, who was particularly drawn to the brilliant youth by his ability and gentlemanly bearing. It was a coveted opportunity for John Charles, and he commenced the study of law with the ardor of an enthusiast. He was always industrious, ready to take hold of any necessary work, and do it with all his might. His application was intense. His will appeared to command his mental faculties with ease, and he could concentrate them upon the work in hand with Napoleonic skill. Obstacles dwindled away before his onward step. He was born to conquer, and this spirit was manifest in his daily efforts. The result was decided advancement in mastering law; just about what Mr. Mitchell anticipated. His intellectual strength developed rapidly.

Romance Nearly Blights Career.

He entered college when he was 15. Some time in the first year he became a Christian, and united with the Episcopal church. Then his mother desired that he should enter the ministry, and began to plan with reference to that event.

When he was about half through his college course he became acquainted with a beautiful young lady, a native of the West Indies, and her attractions proved a match for those of the college. He fell in love with her, very much as his father did with his mother twenty years before, and he could scarcely endure being out of her sight. He loved with desperation, so that he lost interest in books and preparation for ripe manhood, the girl of his choice absorbing his whole being. The consequence was that he neglected his studies and lowered his scholarship. The faculty interposed and warned him, but to no purpose. "Love is blind," it is said, and it certainly blinded John Charles to his own interests and caused him to act without discretion, reason or good sense. He persisted in having his own way and would absent himself a whole day, and even longer, to enjoy the society of the girl. At length the faculty became indignant over his reckless disregard of their requirements and they expelled him. Perhaps the punishment was unexpected to him, but he presumed too much upon the patience and forbearance of his teachers.

Teacher of Mathematics.

His expulsion was followed by the sudden death of a younger brother and a sister, to whom he was most ardently attached. It was a stunning blow to him, and it proved a fortunate one, too. For the expulsion and the sorrow together brought him to his senses, and he began to reflect and ask himself some plain questions.

He was soon lifted out of the slough into which he had fallen and, taking in the situation, he resolved to amend his ways and be a man. That decision meant much to him at this juncture. It saved him, no doubt, from going to the bad. He resolved to return to his studies, not in the college, but to a course of private studies that would fit him for teaching or political life. He put his resolution into practice at once, giving special attention to mathematics, in which he ultimately became one of the ripest scholars in the land. This proficiency gained for him an excellent position as teacher of mathematics on board the sloop-of-war Natchez. Jackson was then president, and he determined to conquer the "nullifiers" of South Carolina, for which purpose the Natchez was commissioned, and set sail. Over two years young Fremont remained on board, and proved himself remarkably efficient as a teacher. He was but 20 years of age when he began his work on the Natchez, but he took speedy and high rank for reliability and true manhood. He was loved and respected by all. At the close of the voyage he returned to Charleston to see his mother. In the meantime the faculty of the college had heard of his success and noble character and they bestowed upon him the degree of bachelor of arts, and, after a few years, master of arts.

Becomes Civil Engineer.

In the interim, however, interested friends called his attention to another field of labor. The public demanded a railroad between Charleston and Savannah, and certain men, who were specially interested in our hero's future success, advised his appointment as civil engineer to survey the route. He accepted the position, and so thoroughly and promptly did his work as to merit the highest commendation of his employers; and, in consequence, he was introduced to a still better position—that of "assistant engineer in a corps organized under the direction of Captain G. W. Williams of the United States topographical engineers, which was commissioned to make a survey of the route of a proposed railway between Charleston and Cincinnati."

His First Exploitation.

Here young Fremont began the life of an explorer, for which his industry and daring nature well qualified him. The mountainous region between South Carolina and Tennessee was little known, and Fremont was offered an opportunity, by his position, to become more familiar with it. Being disposed to seize opportunities, he embraced this, and distinguished himself by exploring various mountain passes on the route of the proposed railway. Although so young, he proved himself to be a

man of genuine sagacity and pluck, having a patriotic pride in the development of his country. From this time he seemed bent upon discovering mountain passes in the most remote and perilous parts of our land. His ability as an explorer developed rapidly. The amount of information he added to what was known of South Carolina and Tennessee was so great that he began to be famous for elements of character that made him candidate for president of the United States twenty years after.

Two Trips Northwest.

Immediately after his work between Charleston and Cincinnati we find him "employed in two separate expeditions (in 1838 and 1839) of that vast region which lies between the Missouri and the Upper rivers, and north to the British line." Very little was known of this part of our country at that time. The hardships and dangers attending these exploring expeditions only served to strengthen the courage and determination of Fremont. He was now "principal assistant to M. Nicollet, a French savant of distinction, whom the illustrious Alexander von Humboldt characterized as one of the brightest ornaments of science." Fremont felt highly honored and privileged to enjoy the society of so distinguished a scholar, and it proved an exceedingly profitable school for him. For, after completing the expeditions in which he was engaged, he was occupied a whole year with M. Nicollet in arranging their material for government use, preparing maps and other scientific illustrations. The benefit of this kind of mental labor to a young man like Fremont was beyond computation, and he always so regarded it.

Meets Jessie Benton.

It was while he was arranging for publication the material gathered in the two aforesaid expeditions in Washington that he met with the young lady who became his wife, Miss Jessie Benton, daughter of the celebrated Senator Benton of Missouri. She was a highly educated and accomplished girl for one of her age (only 15 or 16), as beautiful as she was accomplished. Mutual attachment sprang up between them that resulted in their marriage, October 19, 1841. Before their marriage, however, the government sent him to make an "examination of the river Des Moines, in Iowa, upon the distant banks of which the Sac and Fox Indians still retained their insecure homes." Some of the friends thought that Senator Benton caused this order of the government to be issued, sending Fremont away into what was a vast wilderness then, that his daughter might grow older, because he was decidedly opposed to her marrying so young. He had no objection to the handsome, manly, gifted

young government officer, but he felt that one or two years, at least, should be added to her age before entering into matrimony. They were married after his return from the expedition to Iowa.

Just now an event transpired that wonderfully enlarged the views of our young explorer. Marcus Whitman, a missionary to the Indians of the great Northwestern Territory, out of which several states have been carved since, fearing that our national government would relinquish its claim upon that vast empire to Great Britain, made a journey on horseback to Washington, more than 2,000 miles, in the winter season, at the peril of his life.

Puts Flag on Snow Peak.

Fremont saw this expedition of Whitman's start, and expected just what resulted—triumph. It turned his thoughts to scaling the Rocky mountains, or finding a pass for emigrants to the Pacific slope. Senator Benton, his father-in-law, introduced a bill into congress, under which Fremont organized and led his first exploring party into that unknown country. It was on this expedition that he raised the American flag upon what was then supposed to be the highest peak of the Rocky mountains, and which he named Snow Peak, because its summit bore a burden of snow under a bright August sun. But Fremont desired to complete his survey across the continent and explore that vast unknown region lying between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific ocean, and he asked the government for orders to undertake the expedition. In May, 1843,

when he was 30 years of age, he started, with twenty-five men under his command. He had been on the way but a short time when an order came from James M. Porter, the fussy secretary of war, countermanding the expedition. His devoted and noble wife read the order with surprise. She might have sent it forward and intercepted and turned back her husband. But, taking a much more statesman-like view of the matter than Secretary Porter did, she laid the order on the shelf and allowed her husband to continue his journey, for which act the people of the United States have ever been under obligations to her. Fremont proceeded to the tide-water region of the Columbia river, thence proposing to travel from the lower Columbia to the upper Colorado, on the Gulf of California.

Through Upper Mexico.

By this time our government had gained so great treasures of knowledge from Fremont's daring exploits that it wanted more. In May, 1845, with sixty men and two hundred horses, he led another expedition that involved much more of sacrifice and suffering than those that preceded it. He was to pass through a province of the Mexican republic, and soon after his expedition was fairly under way the war between the United States and Mexico broke out, though he was not aware of the fact until Mexican opposition forced him to change his course and march for Oregon. He lost no time in reaching California. On coming into the Sacramento valley he found the American

(Continued on Page Nine, Column One.)

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