

Frederick Fillmore was of Canadian origin, born circa 1844 and naturalized a U.S. citizen in San Francisco on July 9, 1875. He was first registered as living in San Francisco in the City Directory in 1871, at 274 Minna. By 1875, he'd moved to 317-1/2 Fell St. In 1876, he was living at N. 24th, between Barlett & Mission.

From 1877 to 1879, he lived at 252 Octavia, then from 1880 to 1882, he lived at 232 Oak St, then moved to 402 Hayes between 1883 to 1884. The next two years the City Register puts him at 399-1/2 Hayes. In 1887, he moved to 232 Oak, where he stayed until 1905.

As best as can be established, Fillmore worked between 1871 and 1905 for Buckingham & Hecht, a leather and boot manufacturer, where he started in a position as "shoe cutter." He also served in positions as foreman, superintendent and eventually, in 1898, he became a receiving clerk.

At that time, there were more than fifty boot and shoe manufacturers in San Francisco, and it was determined that the level of expertise and style for California made footwear had reached a point that surpassed what could be obtained from the East Coast.

Of particular note was the company of Buckingham & Hecht, which was associated with the mercantile firm of Hecht Brothers & Co., out of Boston. At the time it started, it was one of the largest establishments of its class in the U.S., hiring about 550 people, with an annual product output worth between \$800,000 and \$1 million.

Thomas Hugh Buckingham, Isaac Hecht and Lewis Hecht who owned and operated the company that Fillmore worked for, were part of San Francisco's post-Gold Rush high society and appeared regularly in the Social Register.

Apparently displaced by the big earthquake of 1906, Fillmore ended up in Mill Valley (across the Golden Gate from San Francisco), where records establish him living there in 1908, where he became an inspector in the quartermaster depot for the military established there. He remained in Mill Valley, eventually working his way up to the position of quartermaster, until 1915, only returning to live in San Francisco at 754 Haight St. for a year. The last records mentioning him at all still place him in Mill Valley in 1918, with no stated profession.