

Richard Torney

In the aftermath of the April 18, 1906, San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, city officials recognized the urgent need to maintain the health of the citizenry.

On April 20, United States Army Surgeon Lt. Col. George Henry Torney, Commander of the Presidio's U. S. Army General Hospital, was ordered to become San Francisco's Chief Sanitary Officer. His successful efforts to prevent any serious outbreak of contagious disease and his creation and enforcement of regulations to establish safe and sanitary conditions for the city's population are illustrated in this presentation.

On the day of the tremor, and in the following days, Lt. Col. Torney's 26-year-old son "Ned" went around the city with his camera taking snapshots of the devastation, the raging fire, and scenes showing some of the city's displaced residents. A selection of these images will be shown 120 years after they were taken.

Richard G. Torney, a great grandson of George Henry Torney, is actively involved with the Kentfield Greenbrae Historical Society, Moya Library-Ross Historical Society, Northwestern Pacific RR Historical Society, and is a docent at the Gravity Car Barn on Mt. Tamalpais.