

## Admiral Charles Wooster

On November 23, 2013, the Embassy of Chile in the United States, the Chilean Naval Mission in Washington, D.C. and the Consulate General in San Francisco unveiled a plaque commemorating the burial place of Charles Wooster, Connecticut-born Admiral of the Chilean Navy.

The ceremony was held at the Hock Farm doors on Garden Highway and was attended by approximately 60 people, including Chileans, Chilean-Americans, Historical Society members, and local dignitaries. Honored guests included Rolando Ortega, Consul General of the Chile in San Francisco; Captain Marcelo Gomez, Chief of the Navy Mission of Chile to the U.S.; and Andy Jeremi, a native Chilean who writes about his countrymen in the United States. Jim Whiteaker, Chair of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, presented a resolution honoring Admiral Wooster. Following the ceremony all were invited to the Ramirez Castle in Marysville. The original owner, Jose Manuel Ramirez Rosales, was a native of Chile.

This history was written by Consul General Ortega.

Admiral Charles William Whiting Wooster, was born in Connecticut in 1780 and fought for the U.S. against England between 1812 and 1815. He has a historical significance for Chile as he was one of the founders of the Chilean Navy, participating very actively in different naval campaigns to support and consolidate the independence of Chile and other Latin-American countries. As a result of his brave actions, experience and determination, in 1829 he was

promoted to Rear Admiral and commanded the Chilean Navy. In 1847 Wooster traveled back from Valparaíso to California, engaging in placer mining on the Yuba River.

According to the “Californian,” the first newspaper in California, Wooster died on August 17, 1848 at the Hock Farm. The “Californian” informed that “Admiral Wooster was well known as a brave and fearless seaman and a kind friend.”

Admiral Charles Wooster is part of the common history that Chile and the United States share. What makes his history so remarkable is the fact that he began his career in the East Coast of the U.S., had an outstanding performance in the Chilean Navy and lived his last years in California, making him an admired figure in Chile and the U.S.

