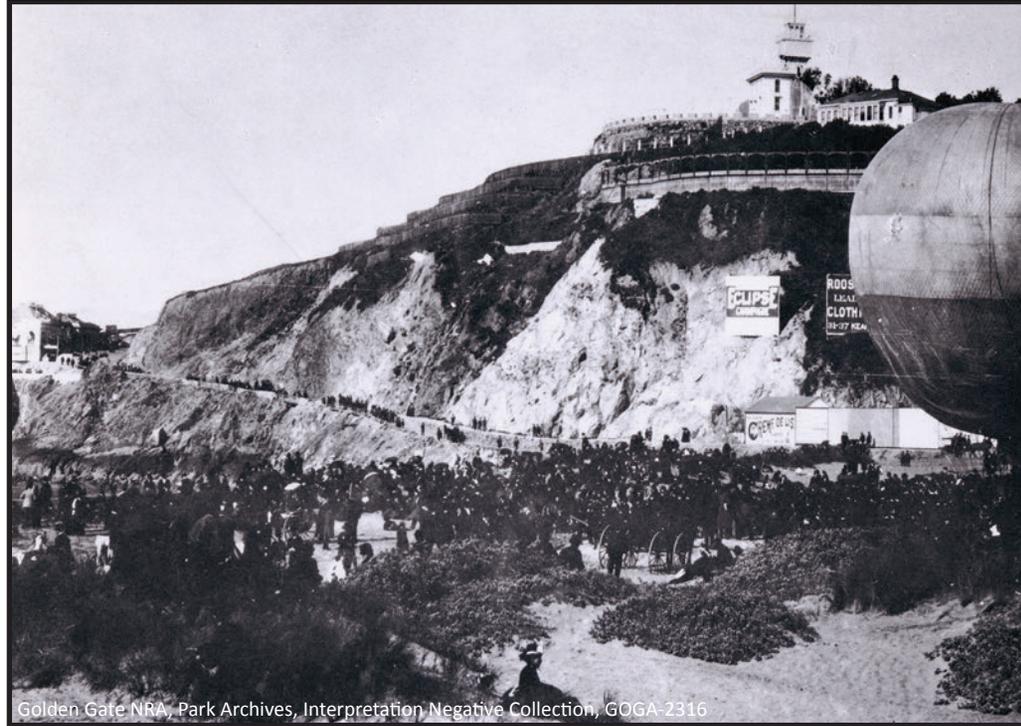


VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Interpretation Negative Collection, GOGA-2316

The scene at Thomas Baldwin's balloon ascension at Ocean Beach, 1887.

Parachute Jumps and Hot Air Balloons

Many people associate parachute jumps with airplanes. However, the first parachute jump in America was made by Thomas Baldwin in 1887 - launched from a hot air balloon that departed from Ocean Beach near the Cliff House. His successful jump was viewed by a crowd of thousands. Baldwin, who later became the Chief of Army Balloon Production and Inspection, also invented the parachute harness in the same year.

In 1893 Lillie Hagal attempted a balloon-based parachute jump departing from the same location on Ocean Beach. She was seriously injured when her half-filled balloon was released and caught fire, lifting into the air and dashing her against two nearby houses. Newspaper articles published in days following the dreadful accident assured that the battered aeronaut would recover. But Adolph Sutro, who at the time owned the launching beach, banned future balloon launches from the location.