

# VESTIGES of Lands End



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Adolph Sutro Estate Appraisal, 1910 GOGA-18443



D. Shew 2012

*Left:* A photo from the appraisal of Adolph Sutro's estate showing Lands End's landscape in 1910; *Right:* Cypress trees around Lands End Trail, 2012.

## Trees

Until the 1880s, the landscape at Lands End was mostly open scrub-covered dunes edged with beaches and rocky cliffs. The first known attempt to drastically alter it was made by Adolph Sutro in his development of Sutro Heights. In the 1880s Sutro planted cypress, eucalyptus, and pine trees to create canopies and windbreaks for his gardens. Many of these mature trees can still be seen at Sutro Heights.

Landscaping associated with building El Camino del Mar in the 1920s included thousands of cypress and pine trees along the Lands End hillsides. More than 10,000 trees were planted in the area in the 1930s by the CWA and WPA as part of "restoration" projects. The non-native cypress trees that came to dominate the area have been monitored and maintained by National Park Service arborists who thin and sometimes remove selected trees to partially restore the natural landscape.

Two Monterey Cypress trees were planted in the early 1920s at the Legion of Honor by distinguished WWI French military heroes Marechal (Marshal) Ferdinand Foch and Marechal Joseph Joffre. Their visits to San Francisco were celebrated with receptions and parades that were the most elaborate events ever to welcome foreign political figures to the city. These trees and their accompanying plaques can be seen today on the east side of the Palace of the Legion of Honor.