

George Davidson

Pioneering Surveyor

1825 - 1911

In 1850, the superintendent of the Coast Survey put out a call for young men to help survey the rugged western coast of the U.S. George Davidson responded, and stayed on for six decades. His name became synonymous with science on the western rim of North America. Davidson surveyed the coast, wrote the region's first *Coast Pilot* mariners' guides and led the first American science expedition to Alaska in 1867. Davidson wrote the report that was instrumental in convincing Congress to fund what has become one of the greatest real estate deals of all time--the purchase of Alaska from Russia. A mountain range in Alaska, a seamount off California and a NOAA ship have all been named in honor of this pioneering surveyor.



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