

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 166<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# PIONEER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

SPRING EDITION



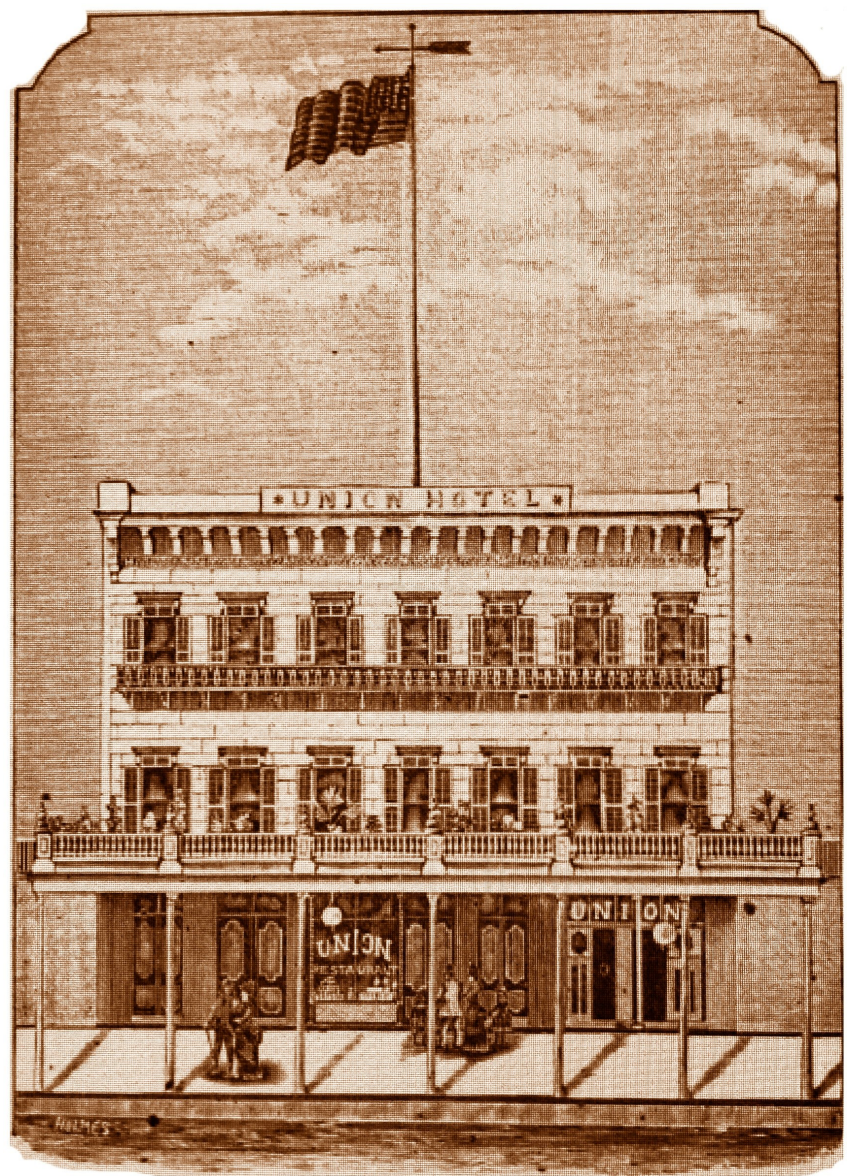
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Documentary Film

Documentary Film  
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UNION HOTEL, SACRAMENTO



# Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



## Officers

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Vice President.....Pete Heringer  
Secretary.....Thom Gilbert  
Treasurer.....Jim Krtil

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Term ending 2019

Bill Schaw

Karun Yee                      Jim Phillips  
Charla King

Term ending March 2020

Hilton Williams                      Mark Rathe

Term ending March 2021

Bill Gould                      Fred Teichert  
Debbie Elliot                      Brian Witherell

## Courtesy Director

Joan Kibbey Taylor

## Administrator

Shelley Ford

## Newsletter Editor

Michael Shepard

**Cover Image:** Advertisement for the Union Hotel from the book *Sacramento, the Commercial Metropolis of Northern and Central California*, published in Sacramento by A. J. Johnston & Co. in 1888.

## UNION HOTEL,

ISADORE TOWNSEND, PROPRIETOR,



Second Street, between J and K, - . Sacramento, Cal.  
(TWO AND A HALF BLOCKS FROM RAILROAD DEPOT),

The Home of Tourists and Commercial Men.

STRICTLY FIRST-CLASS.

Conducted on the European Plan.

## Sacramento Pioneer Association Pioneer Newsletter TM

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(916) 447-7411

[www.sacramentopioneer.org](http://www.sacramentopioneer.org)

## President's Message



Greetings Pioneers,

As the 2019 March annual dinner meeting draws near, so, too, approaches the end of my second and final year as president. What a phenomenal experience this has been serving the Sacramento

Pioneer Association and its members!

The success of this organization is entirely the result of the dedicated members who selflessly volunteer their time, effort and expertise to promote the history and further the legacy of our one hundred and sixty-five-year-old historical society. My sincere thanks to the officers, directors, members and friends of the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

Special thanks are extended to Secretary Thom Gilbert and Treasurer Jim Krttil, who perform their duties exceptionally well. Thank you Director and Events Chair Karun Yee, who completes her final term as board member. Also, I extend my gratitude to past-President Steve Huffman, whose counsel to me these past two years has been invaluable. His active participation as chair of the Pioneer Hall Committee and the Nominating Committee is greatly appreciated. I thank Jack Diepenbrock for his involvement in securing our new Pioneer Hall tenants, the marketing and design firm Position Interactive.

Thank you to Brian Witherell, who regularly seeks out opportunities for the Sacramento Pioneer Association. Most recently, he and Bill Schaw orchestrated our organization's assistance to the Crocker Art Museum to help with its acquisition of the James Clair Flood furniture set, now on display in the museum's third floor California Gallery. Brian and director Bill Gould are working on another exciting opportunity related to the Transcontinental Railroad gold spike. The 150th anniversary of the railroad's completion is May 10, 2019.

There are many others whose names deserve to be mentioned, but, alas, space is limited. I would be remiss, however, without expressing sincere thanks to our bookkeeper/administrator Shelley Ford. Shelley has seamlessly transitioned into her role with the Sacramento Pioneer Association. Her eagerness and adeptness in fulfilling her duties are commendable. Overall, the Association is in good

hands.

Among the most exciting news to share, the KVIE documentary film *Guardians of the Past - the Sacramento Pioneer Association* nears completion. During these first weeks of March, film director Tim Walton finalizes the long-awaited feature.

KVIE scheduled a prescreening reception for Pioneer Association members at the television studio on West El Camino, on Wednesday, March 27. Association members with email addresses on record will receive an email containing a link to register for the free event via Eventbrite. If you haven't received the email invitation, please send an email request to

sacramentopioneerassociation@gmail.com  
or call the Association office at 916-447-7411. The film will air locally on the KVIE program ViewFinder sometime in April.

Serving as president has truly been enjoyable. As I depart, I will not go far. I will continue to serve, at the pleasure of the board, as the editor of the newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Michael Shepard, President



### PIONEER APPAREL

A large assortment of  
shirts, hats, aprons, bags, etc.,  
all finely embroidered  
with the  
Sacramento Pioneer  
Association  
emblem, may be procured  
by visiting

[http://www.companycasuals.com/  
Sacramentopioneer/start.jsp](http://www.companycasuals.com/Sacramentopioneer/start.jsp)

# The Curious Case of the Union Hotel

By Michael Shepard



Captain Samuel Deal

The cremated remains of Captain Samuel Deal, Sacramento's former police chief, lie interred with his wife, children and granddaughter in Pioneer Grove at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. A polished slab of grey-flecked granite embedded in the grass marks the resting place of the old Sacramento Pioneer's ashes. The

memorial stone, however, is a recent addition to the family plot; the letters of each name not yet weathered with the passage of time. Perhaps, descendants of Captain Deal placed the memorial stone as recently as 1993 when Samuel's granddaughter took up residence in the graveyard.

In prominent recognition of Samuel Deal as family patriarch, the following words appear definitively engraved into the Deal family memorial stone:

CAPT. SAMUEL DEAL SR.  
ARRIVED SUTTERS FORT 8 - 1849.  
BUILT UNION HOTEL 1850.

The permanence of those words inscribed in stone by Samuel Deal's kin belie the likelihood that Samuel Deal, in fact, did not build the Union Hotel in 1850, nor did he have anything to do with the hotel's proprietorship.

Investigation into the accuracy of Captain Samuel Deal's epitaph draws attention to three men; each one of them a member of the Sacramento Pioneer Association. Samuel Deal, of course, remains the center of the query. Additionally, renowned newspaper editor H. B. Livingston\* and Sacramento Mayor J. P. Dyer complete the shortlist of those involved.

## SAMUEL DEAL

Like so many other adventurous Forty-Niners, Samuel Deal lived an extraordinary life. For Samuel, the adventure began even before the discovery of gold in California. Born in Shippensburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1822, Samuel learned the family trade of saddlery before enlisting as a private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers to fight in Polk's

war with Mexico. Deal survived his tour of duty in the Mexican campaign and returned to Pennsylvania with his regiment, which mustered out of service at Pittsburgh in July of 1848.

By August of 1848, Eastern newspapers began to publish reports of James Marshall's California gold discovery. In December of 1848, during President James Polk's annual address to Congress, the president confirmed that California was in fact a territory rich with gold. Soon after, Samuel Deal succumbed to the gold fever that swept the nation and joined a joint stock mining company. On March 15, 1849, some 280 young men comprising the Pittsburgh and California Enterprise Company steamed from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to St. Joseph Missouri, aboard the *Consignee*, which plied westward on the Ohio, the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers. On April 13, 1849, the expedition continued overland from St. Joseph, Missouri, arriving at Sutter's Fort on August 31, 1849.

Shortly after arrival, Samuel Deal traded in his occupation mining along the South Fork of the Yuba River for more stable prospects in Sacramento City. According to the *Sacramento City Directory* for the Year 1851, Samuel Deal operated as an auctioneer at 214 K Street. The United States Federal Census of 1850 confirms this.

On October 11, 1851, the city council elected Samuel Deal police chief of Sacramento. Thus began an exemplary career in law enforcement for Captain Deal. He served as Sacramento's chief of police for some fifteen years, became chief of the Central Pacific Railroad's detective bureau and even served at the United States Mint in San Francisco before his retirement. During his lifetime, Samuel Deal owned various pieces of property in Sacramento, but there is so far no city record associated with hotel ownership. Captain Deal's obituary, however, does plainly state that he erected the Union Hotel. This proposition is suspect, as will be explained.

Samuel Deal died in San Francisco in 1895 at age 72. Obituaries memorializing the late captain appeared in the *San Francisco Call* on July 6, 1895, and in the *Sacramento Daily Union* the following day. Both obituaries sourced their content from a biography written about Samuel Deal by fellow Sacramento Pioneer Association and Society of California Pioneers member Henry B. Livingston.

## H. B. LIVINGSTON

H. B. Livingston, a Forty-Niner from Connecticut with a background in law, found employment in Sacramento in December of 1850 as editor of the short-lived newspaper the *Sacramento Index*. When the Sacramento Pioneer Association formed in 1854, Livingston signed on as a constitutional member. After the *Index*, Livingston remained a journalist throughout his life; first as a legislative correspondent for the

\*No relation to Sacramento Pioneer Association past-President Bob Livingston.

*Sacramento Daily Union* and later for San Francisco's *Alta California*. In retirement, he occupied himself by writing biographies of his fellow California pioneers.

Livingston penned a biography of Captain Samuel Deal according to the Sacramento and San Francisco newspaper obituaries, both of which acknowledge, "From a sketch of his life written by Henry B. Livingston, historiographer of the Society of California Pioneers, the subjoined excerpts are taken:..." So far, any original copy of H. B. Livingston's biography of Captain Deal eludes discovery and only the newspaper excerpts are readily available. Therefore, it cannot be established whether Mr. Livingston first mentioned Samuel Deal's ownership of the Union Hotel, or if that notion belongs to the obituary writer.

The following lines from Captain Deal's *San Francisco Call* obituary resolutely suggest an affiliation between Deal and the Union Hotel:

After the war was over Deal went to St. Joseph in Missouri, but news of the gold discovery having reached there he at once turned his face Pacificwards, reaching Sutter's Fort August 31, 1849. He mined profitably on the south fork of the Yuba, and also engaged in teaming. He erected the Union Hotel on K street in Sacramento, of which he also became proprietor.

The *Sacramento Daily Union* reproduced the obituary almost verbatim, but with one exception:

He erected the Union Hotel on Second street in Sacramento, of which he also became the proprietor.

Note that the San Francisco account places the Union Hotel on K Street, whereas the Sacramento edition offers Second Street as the hotel's location.

#### UNION HOTEL

In order to better appreciate the assertion that Captain Samuel Deal never built nor owned Sacramento's Union Hotel, one must explore the available documented history of the Union Hotel.

A Union Hotel stood at 217 J Street (not K Street) according to the *Sacramento City Directory* for the Year 1851. Its proprietors are named Roberts, Sutherland and Conley. The *Sacramento Daily Union* of March 19, 1851, advertises that same business as "Roberts & Gephart, Union Hotel, J st, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> sts." Apparently, this Union Hotel did not survive the great conflagration of November 4, 1852, which burned everything on J Street up to 8<sup>th</sup>. The Union Hotel must have been rebuilt near the same location because the *Sacramento City Directory* for the years 1853 and 1854 lists a Union Hotel at 219 J Street. Its proprietors are Lynch, Parker & Company. Samuel Deal is not mentioned as builder, or owner of either J Street hotels.

#### J. P. DYER

Joseph Palmer Dyer held a diversity of occupations: gentleman, purveyor of coal, director of the Sacramento Pioneer Association, mayor of Sacramento, San Francisco stockbroker and, in the year 1855, hotelier. An exciting bit of news appeared in the *Sacramento Daily Union* on March 3, 1855, regarding city improvement, which read:

The "Verandah," adjoining the Orleans Hotel, was purchased yesterday by Mr. J. P. Dyer, as was also a lot on K street with a frontage of twenty feet, forming an L with the former. It is in contemplation, we understand, to erect forthwith on the latter a three-story building, to add another story to the former, and connect both as one establishment. We hope that those who have surplus funds in hand, will follow suit, and invest in permanent Improvements.

By December 1855, J. P. Dyer completed his building on Second Street and promptly advertised his new business in the December 17<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Sacramento Daily Union*:

Union Hotel, Erected on the old site of the Verandah, Second street, between J and K. A location highly desirable from its central position for business men, as also for the travelling community, being within a square of the landing point of all the steamers, and the stages for every part of the interior leave the front of the Hotel.

J. P. Dyer's Union Hotel, a landmark building of Old Sacramento, still stands on Second Street next to the Orleans Hotel. Evidence from the 1850s suggests that Samuel Deal played no part in its construction, ownership, or operation. A puzzle still remains regarding how Captain Samuel Deal's name became entwined with Sacramento's various Union hotels. Could it be that H. B. Livingston mistakenly added the incorrect information to Deal's biography? Both Deal and Dyer enjoyed membership in the Sacramento Pioneer Association and the Society of California Pioneers. If Dyer's biography immediately followed that of Deal in Livingston's compendium of life stories, maybe the obituary writer accidentally added a line from Dyer's biography to Deal's story. For now, that mystery remains. The fact that three members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association play a role in the enigma makes for an intriguing narrative to be further explored. Perhaps, one more bit of evidence waits discovery, which could change everything. But, until then, it appears that the Deal family memorial stone in Pioneer grove unfortunately perpetuates an historical inaccuracy. ❖

## THE SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Cordially invites you to attend

### The 2019 Annual Dinner Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.

#### Sutter Club

1220 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Current dues paying members and Lifetime members \$79/person

Other members and guests \$99/person

Send reservations by March 15, 2019, indicating your dinner selection,  
with check payable to

Sacramento Pioneer Association

1731 Howe Avenue, Box 639, Sacramento, CA 95825

Reservations limited

No Refunds after March 15, 2019

## Menu

### Entrée

Bacon Wrapped Beef Tenderloin

Chimichurri Seabass

Mushroom Ravioli

### Served with

Arugula Salad with Prosciutto, Figs, Goat Cheese Feta and  
Grilled Pear Vinaigrette

Warm Chocolate Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream, Chocolate  
Sauce and Seasonal Berries

No host cash bar

Complimentary Wine

# KVIE PUBLIC TELEVISION INVITES YOU

FREE PREVIEW SCREENING for Members of the SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

## Guardians of the Past - The Sacramento Pioneer Association

They were some of the first to come west in search of gold. When those dreams failed to materialize, they stayed anyway. They settled the land, built Sacramento, helped establish California Statehood, and ultimately opened up the West for others to follow. Over the decades, the Sacramento Pioneer Association helped save Sutter's Fort and Old Sacramento from ruin. And they've donated numerous historically significant artifacts to the city.



Discover how, 165 years later, the SPA continues the legacy of its founders by actively preserving our region's rich history for future generations.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Join us after the screening for a  
Q&A discussion with guest experts.

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

5:30PM - Doors open/hors d'oeuvres

6:00PM - Film screening

6:30PM Q&A discussion

To receive a link to KVIE's RSVP page, via  
Eventbrite, please send an email to:

**sacramentopioneerassociation@gmail.com**

Include **"Film RSVP"** in the subject line.



# Exclusive Freeze-Frame Photos from the Documentary Film Guardians of the Past - The Sacramento Pioneer Association

Courtesy of KVIE Film Director Tim Walton



A view through the trees of Albert Maver Winn's memorial obelisk in Pioneer Grove.



Period actor playing the role of James Marshall inside Marshall's actual cabin in Coloma.



Aerial drone footage of Mark Hopkin's tomb and surrounding graves in Pioneer Grove in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.





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Sacramento, CA 95825-2209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **Sacramento Pioneer Association Calendar of Events**

**Thursday, March 21**

Annual Dinner Meeting, 6PM, at the  
Sutter Club

**Wednesday, March 27**

KVIE Advance Screening of the Pioneer  
Association Documentary Film

**Friday, May 10**

150th anniversary of the last spike, which  
completed the Transcontinental Railroad  
at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, in  
1869. (No event planned)

**2019**