

SACRAMENTO PIONEER ASSOCIATION

OUR 168TH YEAR

PIONEER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

SUMMER EDITION



President's Message

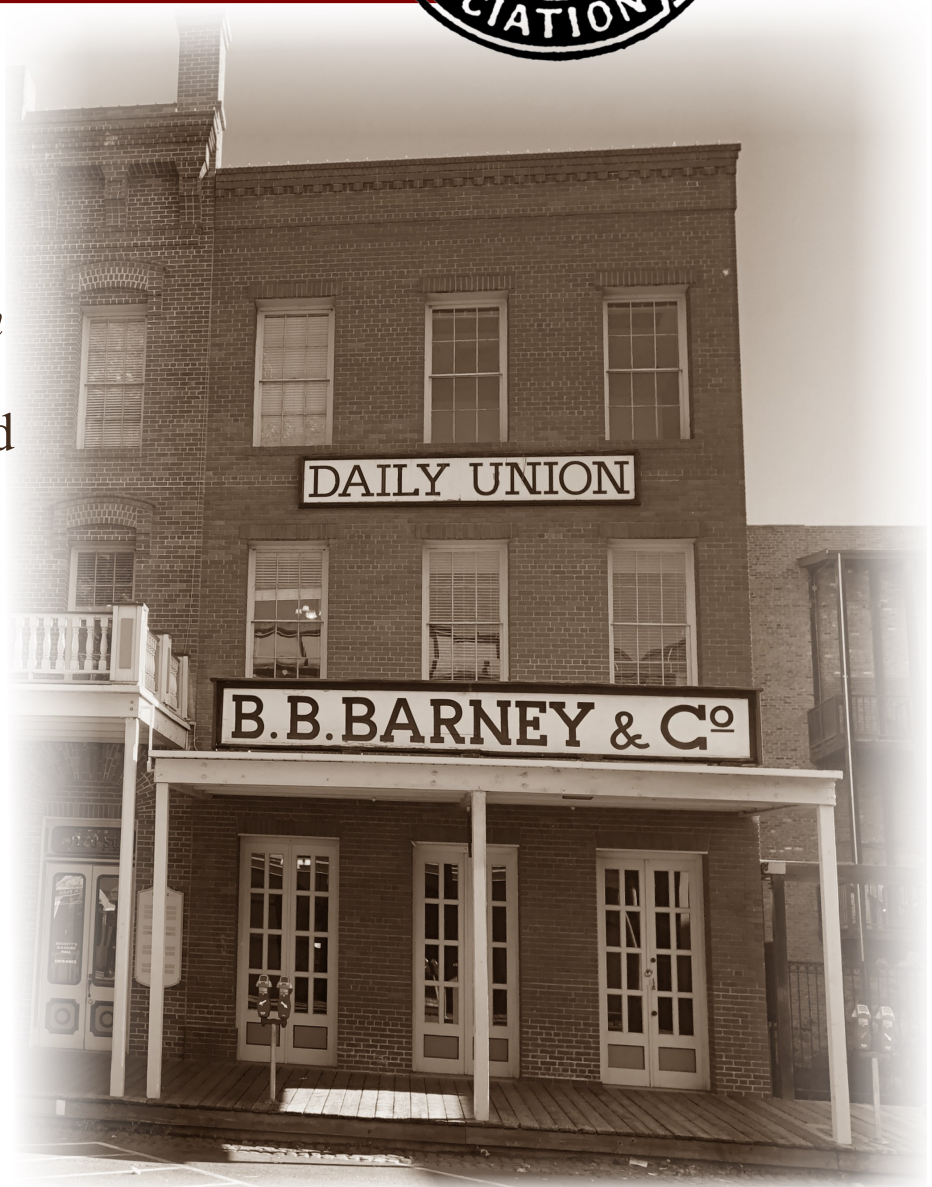
A Voice for Pioneers:
James Anthony's *Union*

2021 Scholarship Award
Recipients

Sacramento County
History Day Special
Award Winners

June 24 Lecture
Featuring Historian
William Burg

Upcoming Live, in
Person Events!



Sacramento Daily Union
J Street Between Front & 2nd
Old Sacramento

Sacramento Pioneer Association Quarterly Newsletter



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President.....Bill Gould
Vice President.....Lori Gualco
Secretary.....Michael Shepard
Treasurer.....Thom Gilbert

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Term ending March 2022

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Term ending March 2023

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Newsletter Editor

Michael Shepard

Cover image:

The Sacramento *Daily Union* operated from this two-storied brick building on J Street, between Front and Second Streets, since the establishment of the newspaper on March 19, 1851. The historic fire of November 2, 1852, gutted the building, which the proprietors promptly rebuilt and reoccupied on November 20, 1852.

B. B. Barney & Co., dry goods, conducted business from the ground floor of the *Union* building prior to the great conflagration. An advertisement that appeared in the Sacramento *Daily Union* on April 16, 1851, perhaps written by Editor John F. Morse himself, reads:

Messrs. B. B. Barney & Co. have a splendid assortment of provisions and California supplies in general. But we mean more than this. We mean that their cigars are as good as any ever smoked by a Spanish Caballero or a California editor.

The *Union* relocated to a larger building on Third Street, between J and K Streets, in May of 1861. The original *Union* building on J Street remains preserved in Old Sacramento while all of the historic buildings on Third Street were razed during the construction of Interstate 5.

Sacramento Pioneer Association Pioneer Newsletter TM

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President's Message

Greetings Pioneers,

It has been a long stressful time since our last get together in March of last year. However, I can report that while operating by way of Zoom meetings (at least 9 at last count) the association has weathered the lockdown and is in good shape.

Financially we have done well despite Covid and the additional problem of the trashing and looting of Pioneer Hall, and the resultant loss of our first-floor tenant. At this time, we are guardedly optimistic that a new tenant is on the horizon.

While we have had to place our social activities on hold, there may be light at the end of the tunnel. With vaccinations and the relaxing of social distancing, we now have the possibility of a "Pioneer Picnic," perhaps at the Effie Yeaw Nature Preserve. Additionally, there may be a bus trip to San Francisco to visit the California Pioneer Society Museum. If we can manage that, it will be later in the year.

As long as the Covid situation continues to improve, I think we can look forward to getting the association back to normal and having some fun in the process. In that regard, I hope to see you all at the picnic!

Bill Gould, President

Cemetery Plot for Sale

A Pioneer Grove plot in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 10th & Broadway, is available for sale by owner to a member of the Sacramento Pioneer Association. All plots are currently owned, so this is a rare opportunity exclusively for a Pioneer Family. The plot is four feet by nine feet and can inter three coffins stacked if needed. Please contact Wesley Yee if interested at wesleyyee@aol.com

Please note that the Sacramento Pioneer Association Cemetery Trust requires the buyer to be a member in good standing of the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

From the Editor

The Association extends a warm welcome to newly elected President Bill Gould and Vice President Lori Gualco as well as new Directors Jennifer Basye, Barbara Collopy and Peter Noack.

A whole-hearted thank you to past President Bill Schaw for his exceptional service under unprecedented circumstances.

Thank you to outgoing Directors Hilton Williams and Fred Teichert.

Michael Shepard



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

<https://www.companycasuals.com/Sacramentopioneer/start.jsp>

A Voice for Pioneers: James Anthony's *Union*

By Michael Shepard

Panama, a backwater provincial capital on the Pacific side of the Isthmus of the same name, strained under the human logjam of gold-hungry transients desperate for passage to California. President Polk's December 5, 1848, address to Congress confirmed rumors of "the vast mineral wealth recently developed" in California. A rush to America's Pacific shore by any means possible ensued. Twenty-five-year-old James Anthony, a native of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and a transplant to St. Louis, Missouri, languished for weeks in the malaria-ridden tropical port city with the ever-growing mass of travelers (some estimates claim 2,500) until finally, on May 20, 1849, he secured passage to California aboard a hastily retrofitted cargo sailing ship named *Alexander von Humboldt*. Forty-eight days to Acapulco, the human cargo numbering 360 souls arrived at that port nearly famished due to shortage of food and water. After a week in Acapulco, the *v. Humboldt* continued to its destination arriving in San Francisco on August 30, 1849.

The ordeal aboard the *v. Humboldt* created a special bond among many of the ship's passengers. They referred to themselves as Humboldters and for decades after, a group of them gathered in San Francisco on the August 30 anniversary of their arrival. Two of these Humboldters, Dr. John F. Morse and Collis P. Huntington, would also join the Sacramento Pioneer Association along with James Anthony. Morse and Huntington played a significant role in the course of James Anthony's later life in California, as did many of his fellow Pioneers.

Most newly arrived argonauts ventured to the gold fields as soon as possible, and Anthony likely did just that, though records of his first months in California are scarce. A notice in the April 12, 1850, edition of the *Sacramento Transcript* places him in Sacramento at that time and reads: "The public are indebted to Mr. James Anthony, for his kindness and efficiency in procuring for us, at the earliest moment, the election returns of Sacramento county. We tender to him our sincerest thanks." It would appear that Anthony served as courier for the *Transcript*, which had printed its first issue just twelve days earlier.

James Anthony might naturally have been drawn to the newspaper business because of prior experience. He had taken a job in 1846 in the business office of the *St. Louis Republican*, a Whig journal. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican war, Anthony joined a company in the First Regiment of Missouri Volunteers, possibly the Boone Guards, under the command of Captain John

Knapp, brother of the owner of the *St. Louis Republican*. After the war, he found himself in New Orleans – a staging ground for passage to California via Panama.

By 1851, Anthony established himself at Johnson's Ranch House at the crossing of Bear River (a tributary of the Feather River), between the towns of Nicholas and Kearny, about thirty miles north of Sacramento, perhaps as a hotelier. The *Sacramento Daily Union* mentioned James Anthony by name three times in the summer of 1851 when it reported a succession of robberies at Johnson's Ranch, in which Anthony lost a safe containing \$1,000 in gold, all his valuable stock of mules,

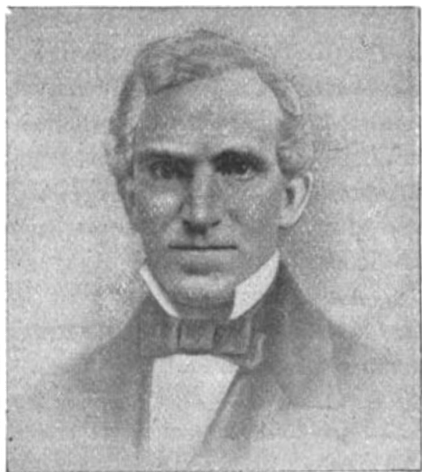
horses and cattle, and a prized sorrel American mare. Anthony offered a reward for the latter animal, which he announced regularly in the *Daily Union* until November of 1851, apparently with no success. That same November, James Anthony accepted a job in the business department of the *Sacramento Daily Union*. Acquaintance and fellow *Alexander v. Humboldt* passenger Dr. John F. Morse held the esteemed position as the newspaper's editor until May 6, 1852.

The fire of November 2, 1852 gutted the substantial two-story brick *Union* building on J Street, between Front and Second Streets. The newspaper continued to print a reduced edition beginning November 4 from the

second story of J. B. Starr's auction house. The proprietors of the *Union* rebuilt at a heavy cost and reoccupied their two-storied building on J Street on November 20, 1852. The conflagration may very well have incentivized Mr. E. G. Jefferis, the majority shareholder of the *Union*, to sell his stake in the company to twenty-eight-year-old James Anthony from the newspaper's business department.

The name of James Anthony & Co. replaced E. G. Jefferis & Co. in the masthead of the May 20, 1853 issue of the *Sacramento Daily Union*. The new co-partnership included James Anthony, P. Morrill, H. W. Larkin and Alexander Clark, although Clark died in October of 1853.

A few days after James Anthony assumed control of the *Union*, the firm expanded its function as newspaper publisher to include literature. On May 26, 1853, the *Union* advertised a "handsomely printed" sixteen-page satirical pamphlet titled *The Miner's Progress; Or, Scenes in the Life of a California Miner*. Wood engraving prints depicted the absurd, yet relatable, aspects of the trials and tribulations experienced by the California miner. The *Union* advertised that "The series fully illustrate the ups and downs of mining life; and the humorous character of the engravings and the explanatory verses accompanying them is so well sustained throughout that they cannot fail to excite the mirth of all who peruse them." The covered and stitched booklet sold for only 25 cents each, or \$15 per hundred. Although the advertisement did not name the author or



James Anthony

illustrator, a 1943 reprint of the pamphlet recognized Alonzo Delano, pen name Old Block, as the creator of the verse and Charles Nahl the engraver.

In November of 1853, the Union published a second collection by Delano and Nahl titled *Pen Knife Sketches: Or, Chips of the Old Block*, containing one hundred twelve pages and illustrated with twenty-seven wood engravings. The edition sold over sixteen thousand copies. A third collaborative work by Delano and Nahl appeared in 1856 titled *Old Block's Sketchbook Or, Tales of California Life*, again published by James Anthony & Co.

Sacramento's forty-niners (some who perhaps provided inspiration for Alonzo Delano's vignettes) sought to form a pioneer society in January 1854, like that which formed in San Francisco four years earlier, so that "historical fact, and interesting reminiscences concerning the Sacramento Valley and our own city may be collected and preserved." Any citizen of California who arrived prior to January 1, 1850, would be eligible for membership.

About one hundred twenty persons attended the first meeting of the Sacramento Pioneer Association in the dining room of Jones' Hotel, which happened to be across the street from the *Union* office. Chairman Joseph W. Winans (an occasional contributor of editorials to the *Union*) appointed James Anthony to a committee tasked "to present a series of resolutions expressive of the object of the meeting, and as a basis for the action of a committee to be appointed to present a Constitution and By-Laws at an adjourned meeting." Many of the city's most esteemed citizens comprised its ranks. James Anthony served as the Association's second recording secretary and later as director. Alonzo Delano, or Old Block, became a member in December 1854. Former *Union* Editor Dr. John F. Morse served as a director and then president.

In 1856, Dr. Morse owned and edited the *California State Medical Journal*. James Anthony & Co. printed each one-hundred-forty-four-page quarterly edition beginning in April of 1856. A compendium containing the journal's first four issues, prefaced with the constitution of the medical society and its code of ethics, followed in 1857.

Sacramento Pioneer Association member Rev. Joseph A. Benton circumnavigated the globe in 1859 with fellow Pioneer Edgar Mills on a tour of China, the East Indies, the Holy Land and Europe. Over the course of the journey, the Sacramento *Daily Union* published at regular intervals more than thirty letters from the pen of Rev. Benton that described the greater world to an eagerly awaiting readership.

Under James Anthony's stewardship, the Sacramento *Daily Union* had become an influential presence in Sacramento and the surrounding region. C. C. Goodwin, a former editor of the Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*, recalled in his book *As I Remember Them*: "the Sacramento Union had drawn to it the enthusiastic support and affection of all northern California. It was an independent journal and discussed all questions with perfect candor and without fear."

Goodwin continued, "It was conducted with judgement and ability which no other journal in the state could command, and then there was a charm about it which drew men irresistibly to it. It was always optimistic about California...it was most masterful in shaping public opinion."

The owners of the Sacramento *Daily Union* avidly supported the building of a transcontinental railroad and vested early support behind the Central Pacific Railroad's directors, Stanford, Crocker, Huntington and Hopkins; the latter two were both members of the Sacramento Pioneer Association. Collis P. Huntington had been an 1849 passenger of the v. *Humboldt* as well. After the completion of the national road in 1869, however, the public became aggrieved at the high cost of passage and freight charged by the Central Pacific Railroad. The Sacramento *Daily Union* took up the fight for the common people against the railroad. The Big Four feared the newspaper's influence could sway legislators. The Central Pacific countered in 1869 by banning *Union* papers aboard its cars.

Anthony and his partners opposed the Central Pacific Railroad Company from acquiring more land in Sacramento, specifically on the waterfront. "They have already so much as to amount to a monopoly," warned a June 30, 1869 article. The railroad company sought acquisition of Goat Island in the San Francisco Bay with the intention of filling in the shoal to create a peninsula connected to Oakland. Goat island (now known as Yerba Buena Island) would become the Central Pacific Railroad terminus, a mere two miles by ferry from San Francisco. The *Union* took strong opposition to the failed land grab that came to be known as the Goat Island Affair.

The *Daily Union* backed political candidates deemed unsympathetic to the railroad. The newspaper endorsed Newton Booth's 1871 bid for governor and his 1875 run for United States Senate on the anti-monopoly ticket. Booth, a fellow Sacramento Pioneer, won both races.

The partners of the Sacramento *Daily Union* could not be bribed nor tempted, so the directors of the Central Pacific funded a competing newspaper called the Sacramento *Daily Record* with limited success. Stanford, Crocker, Huntington and Hopkins had made business difficult enough for the *Union* that James Anthony considered moving the entire operation to San Francisco. Anthony was the youngest of the owners at age 51, but not even he found any appeal in starting up again in a new city. James Anthony & Co. sold the *Union* to the Sacramento Publishing Company in February of 1875, which promptly merged it with the Sacramento *Daily Record* to form the *Record-Union*. Reader's who remained loyal to the old newspaper called it the "*Wrecked-Union*." The Railroad had won.

James Anthony left Sacramento for San Francisco with his wife, Mary Josephine, and their seven children. He died less than a year later January 4, 1876 – perhaps of a broken heart. His remains returned to Sacramento where they reside in the Historic City Cemetery.



2021 Scholarship Recipients

By Lori Gualco, Scholarship Committee Chair

While the annual scholarship is usually awarded in March of each year so that the recipient is presented to the membership at the annual meeting, this year, like so many other things in the past year, was different. Given the difficulties associated with online learning at the city public high schools, an extension was granted to provide more time for applications to be submitted. The additional time paid off and ten high level applications were received by the due date of March 22. In recognition of the high quality of applicants and the hardships of the past year in education, the Board decided to award two \$5,000 scholarships this year.

The first scholarship recipient is Ashley Jun. She is a senior at McClatchy High School in the HISP program, an academically challenging 4-year specialized program. Besides having high SAT test scores, over a 4-point grade point average, and ranking number 5 out of 498 students, she is actively involved in numerous activities. Those activities include 4H, California Youth Advocacy, and the National Korean Youth Sports and UC Davis Mind Institute working with mentally disabled youths. She has received many honors and awards and was in several academic honor societies. Currently she is working in the Stanford University Band-gap Devices Lab where she began in May 2020 as a STEM to SHTM intern and is now an undergraduate researcher. Ashly will continue her studies at Stanford in the fall. Her goal is to become a patent attorney and work on the front lines of new and expanding technology. We have no doubt she will reach her goals and be a credit to her profession and her hometown of Sacramento.

The second scholarship recipient is Devon Akiyama. Devon is a graduate of West Campus High School. With high SAT scores, over a 4-point grade point average and ranked 9 out of 199 at the campus, Devon still found time to be involved in numerous activities. He was in Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), creating a complex engineering project, had leadership positions in the Key Club, started a Model United Nations Club, was in a number of honorary academic societies, and is currently on track to receive the Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts of America where he is restoring the Outdoor Kitchen at his Buddhist Church. He also finds time to volunteer for his church and with the Boy Scouts of America. In the fall, Devon will attend the University of California, Berkeley and intends to major in business and minor in history. He dreams of working in the business field and someday we may read about his entrepreneurial endeavors.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 24

William Burg Zoom Lecture

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 25

the Sacramento Pioneer Association plans to hold its annual picnic at Effie Yeaw Nature Park. Special initiation fee rate for prospective members who attend the picnic. Invite your family and friends. More information to follow.

Tentative Events

2021

Saturday, September 25

Annual Picnic

Thursday, December 2

Holiday Gala

2022

Thursday, March 10

Annual Meeting

Sacramento County History Day

Once again, the Sacramento Pioneer Association sponsored special awards for this year's Sacramento History Day. The theme:

*Communication in History:
The Key to Understanding.*

Due to Covid social distancing protocol, participating students posted projects online. The March 14 award ceremony also took place online via YouTube. Among the many outstanding projects, two fit well within the Association's historical wheelhouse.

The story of the Pony Express, in the performance category featuring two elementary school students, received a \$50 cash prize.

All Hooves and No Breaks, a documentary film about the Pony Express created by five high school students, received a \$150 cash prize.



Mr. Burg has authored seven books about Sacramento history and has recently appeared on KVIE's *Studio Sacramento* hosted by Scott Syfax.

What Happened to Sacramento's West End?

Join us for a Zoom lecture
Exploring Sacramento's
Lost Neighborhood and its Businesses
Featuring Sacramento Historian and Author

William Burg

Thursday, June 24, at 7 P.M.

To request a free login link,
Please send an email to

sacramentopioneerassociation@gmail.com



THE MINER'S PROGRESS Or, Scenes in the Life of a California Miner

The Pilgrim paused, and looking down
As one who is in doubt,
He sighed too see how fast that pair
Of boots were wearing out.
And as he filled his pipe,
His wretchedness to cheer,
He stopped, with hurried hand to pick
A flea from out his ear.

A pamphlet of 16 pages, comprising a series of humorous illustrations of scenes in the life of a California miner, will be issued from this office in the early part of next week. The sketches are drawn and engraved in the best style of the art, and are pronounced by those who have seen them, to be far superior to any thing of the kind ever got up in this country. The series fully illustrate the ups and downs of mining life; and the humorous character of the engravings and the explanatory verses accompanying them is so well sustained through out, that they cannot fail to excite the mirth of all who peruse them.

It will be handsomely printed, covered and stitched, forming a most appropriate present for friends at home.

Price—Single copies only 25 cents each—\$15 per hundred.

Verse by Alanzo Delano
Engraving by Charles Nahl.

May 26, 1853

JAMES ANTHONY & CO.,
Union Office, 21 J street.



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Sacramento, CA 95825-2209

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