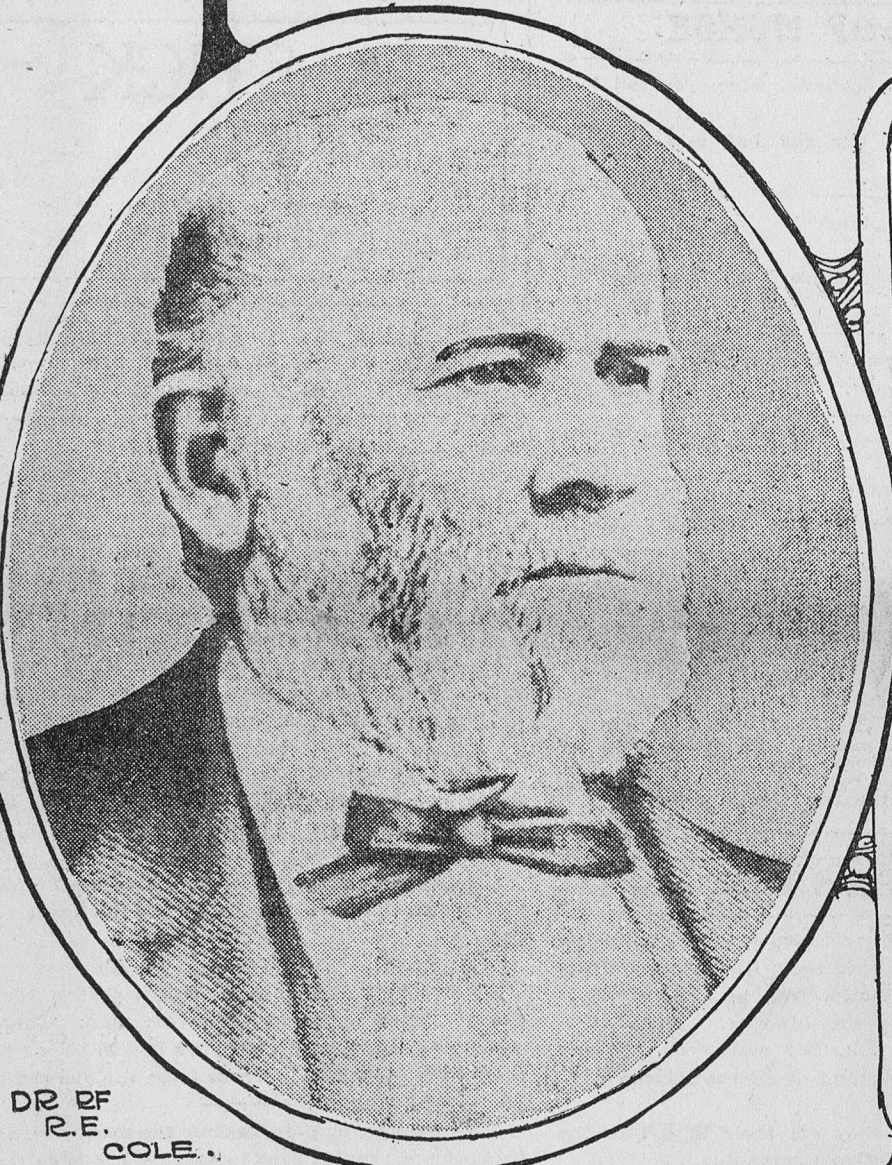
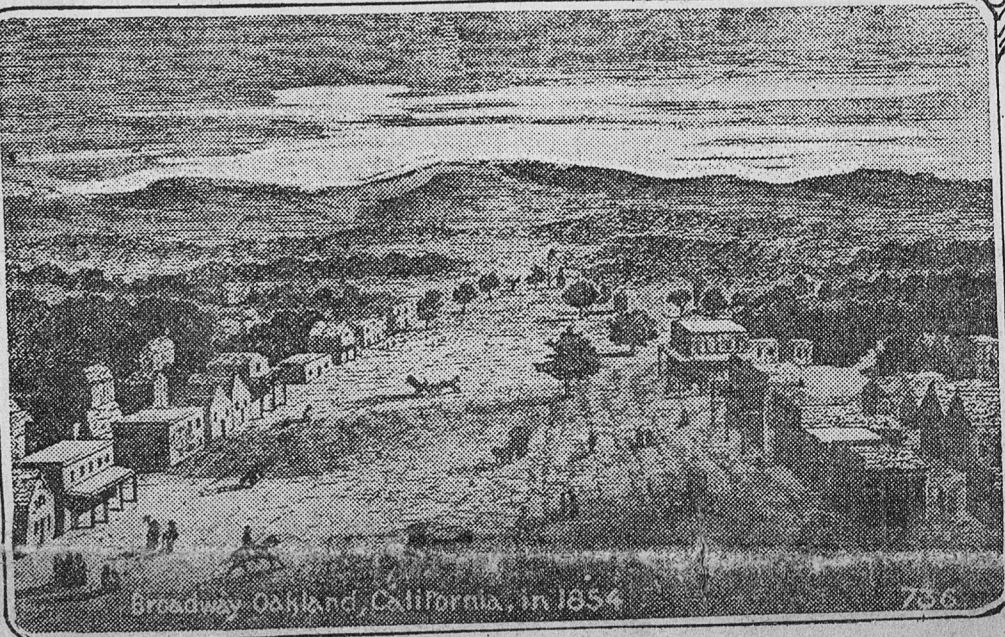


# TRADITIONAL OAKLAND

SP STATION AT SEVENTH AND ADELIN 1867.



DR. R. E. COLE.



Broadway Oakland, California, in 1854.

BROADWAY, OAKLAND, 1854.

What is traditional Oakland? or more historically to phrase it, what will traditional Oakland be? For the tradition, if there be one, is still in the making; time enough has not elapsed for things of this city's early period to assume the mystical and legendary importance that attaches to all antiquities in all lands. The reason obviously is that all who saw the beginnings of this community have not yet passed away. There are folk still walking the streets who remember when the city was not and when only a collection of villages, separated by groves of oaks, occupied the continental side of the bay, known then as Contra Costa, in the days before Alameda county had been carved out.

So long as these venerable memories live, the tradition of Oakland will not exist, the romancer must stay his fancy a while, lest he err in their presence and they hide him with the truth. But when the venerables have passed away, the legend will surely arise. And the presence of certain of these olden men and women, who remember the city in its infancy, need not withhold the younger generation from its own tradition. Rather they may aid; for such is the lesson of history, what was familiar to the men of other times will be the legend of the future. The memory of the ancients then may well serve to us a double purpose: it may carry backward for a glimpse of the past, and by the simple transmutation of imagination, we shall behold "as through a glass darkly" the legend that is to be.

Take, for example, the name of Merritt. Dr. Samuel Merritt is dead; but his august figure still is remembered in his chosen home city. He saw Oakland grow, for he came to California in 1850 in his own ship, the Reindeer, voyaging around Cape Horn, and April 1851 he landed in San Francisco. In 1860 he removed to Oakland, engaging in the real estate and shipping business, and in 1868 was elected mayor. He was a member of the first board of regents of the University of California, appointed by Governor Haight, whose descendants live in Berkeley. His friend was Henry Rogers, the aged Oakland banker, and his home stood on the shore of Lake Merritt. That body of water is named for him, and there you have the nub of a legend. How will it be preserved? Easily enough; for Henry Rogers has given his picture to the public museum; and the face of Merritt will not be lost.

Or choose at random from among early and late notables the name of William Keith, the great California painter. What had he to do with Oakland that legend will embalm? One of his earliest pictures was a water color of the old Southern Pacific station at Seventh and Adeline streets, as it stood in 1867. There is the fragment which may grow into curious legend.

Who knows the story of the first street railway in Oakland—fit material for legend in itself? One of its builders was Dr. R. E. Cole, who came to California in 1849, and to Oakland in 1858. He served in the Board of Education from 1866 to 1881, and for eleven years was president of the board. His street railroad ran from Seventh and Oak streets to the ferry.

Not less notable in Oakland is the name of Oscar L. Shafter, a Californian after 1854. In 1864 he was

elected to the State Supreme Court, serving as associate justice for four years, when he went abroad for his health. His picture is also at the museum, presented to the future by Mrs. Emma Shafter Howard. Her name, too, will some day be guided by legend, for students of the Oakland high school, walking the spacious halls of that ugly building, come upon frequent niches containing examples of Greek art, all inscribed, "Presented by Emma Shafter Howard." Those figures will be the nuclei of legend in a few decades.

The name of Henry Durant is quite legendary even now; he was notable in the early history of the University of California; and he was mayor of Oakland. Who remembers that?

And here is his administration, as they served in the year 1874, taken from a battered old copy of A. A. Bynon's "Business Directory of Oakland and Alameda, 1874":

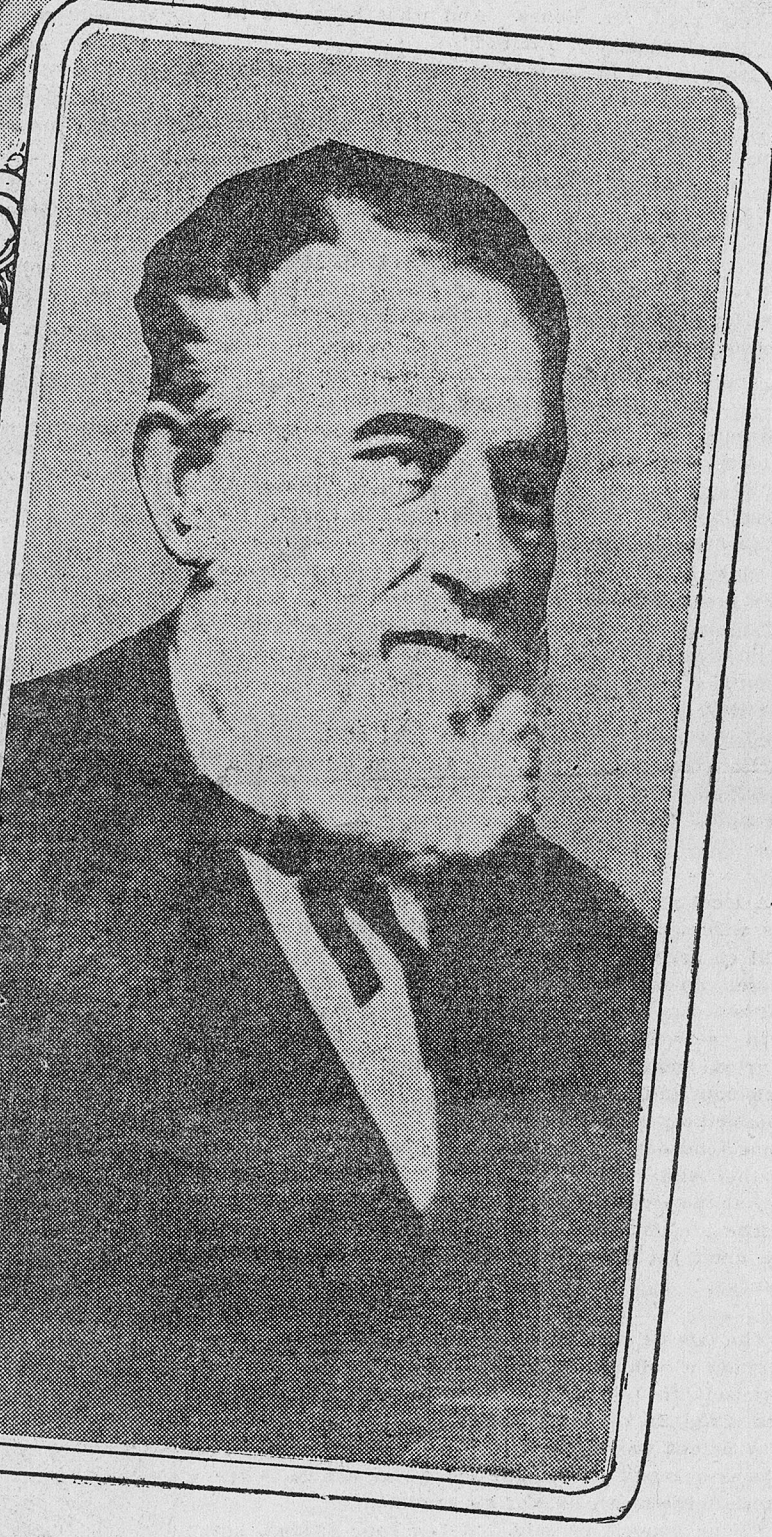
- Mayor.....H. Durant
- Police Judge.....A. H. Jayne
- Treasurer and Clerk.....H. Hillebrand
- Marshal and Tax Collector.....Perry Johnson
- City Assessor.....Joseph M. Dillon
- City Attorney.....H. H. Havens
- City Engineer.....T. J. Arnold
- Clerk of the Police Court.....Ed Hoskins
- Marshal's Clerk.....L. J. Potter
- Assistant Clerk.....C. J. Robinson
- City Council—N. M. Webber, president; Israel W. Knox, W. S. Snook, Franklin Warner, N. W. Spaulding, James Larus, Benjamin F. Ferris.
- Board of Education—F. M. Campbell, superintendent of public schools; R. E. Cole, president; B. P. Wall, secretary; E. W. Playter, C. W. Kellogg.

- William Bolton, A. W. Swett, W. K. Rowell, O. H. Burnham.
- Fire Department—J. F. Steen, chief engineer.
- Fire Commissioners—Q. A. Chase, president; A. Herman, secretary; W. K. Rowell, G. S. Brown, C. W. Freeman, John Geschen, H. Thorne, George Chase, Walter Smith.
- Board of Health—George Sherman, health officer; E. S. Carr, William Bolton, C. S. Kittredge.
- Police Department—E. B. Tarbett, captain; D. H. Rand, W. Aldrich, Spencer Poole, Al Shorey, G. H. Carleton, O. Whipple, J. Brown, W. D. Thomas, William P. Brant, W. H. Summers, Charles P. McKay, W. Barlow.



DR. SAMUEL MERRITT.

JUDGE OSCAR L. SHAFER.



Somewhat less numerous was the administration of the town of Alameda in 1874. Here are the town officers from the same business directory:

Board of Trustees—Henry Robinson, president; Jabesh Clement, E. B. Mastick, Alonzo Green, Eppes Ellery.

Board of Education—W. P. Gibbons, president; Cyrus Wilson, George O. Smith, M. W. Peck, William Holtz.

Town treasurer and ex-officio tax collector, Thomas A. Smith; town assessor, E. M. Smith; town clerk, O. W. Briggs; justices, Horace Hoag, William Haltz; constables, William T. Valentine, H. S. Barlow.

Further along in the old directory we read that A. A. Moore, now the distinguished and experienced lawyer of San Francisco, was district attorney of Alameda county in 1874. His office was at Tenth street and Broadway, northeast corner, and as a lawyer he had to meet the competition of only eleven others in Oakland:

S. F. Daniels, A. H. Griffith, W. H. Glasscock, John R. Glasscock, W. M. Graham, J. F. Havens, H. H. Havens, Zach Montgomery, H. C. Scofield and the firm of Voorhies & Martin (the only legal combination in Oakland in 1874.)

Clinton Day and Matthews & Stokes were the architects of that time in Oakland.

Banks there were two—Oakland Bank of Savings, 915 Broadway, P. S. Wilcox president; F. W. Gill, cashier; and the Union Savings Bank, Broadway and Ninth street, A. C. Henry, president; H. A. Palmer, cashier.

Among the butchers appears the name of Louis Schaeffer, later the chief of police and politician. He still is known intimately in old Oakland.

Alfred Bannister had a monopoly of the town of Oakland as civil engineer.

Furthermore, the folk must have been willing to pay their bills readily, for John T. Coe was the only man making his living here as a collector in 1874.

There were only four dentists in Oakland in 1874, Dr. R. E. Cole, whose picture is in the museum; W. H. Craig, A. Lefevre and D. N. Powers. There were more dressmakers and more druggists, eleven each; but there was only one drayman, G. Dixon of East Oakland.

The Oakland Gas Light Company, H. H. Haight, president, and V. L. Eastland, superintendent, had its offices in First street between Broadway and Washington street.

Asa Howard was justice of the peace for Brooklyn township, having an office in East Oakland at 624 East Twelfth street; and Henry Nedderman, whose son is now on the Oakland police force, was his constable.

Robert Dalziel was one of twenty-four plumbers who thrived in Oakland in 1874.

A. G. Lawrie and G. W. McKeand were the searchers of records in 1874, and the courthouse and hall of records of Alameda county then stood in East Oakland.

William Helmer and W. W. McKenzie, in the Ninth street and Broadway district, ran the two undertaking establishments.

And in 1874 Anthony Chabot (for whom the Chabot observatory was named) was president of the Contra Costa Water Company in Oakland, and C. Brier was the superintendent. The office was at 458 Eighth street.

## VALUE OF OLD VIOLINS

As early as 1840 or 1850 fine violins began to be brought to the United States, largely at that time by the sons and daughters of wealthy southern planters, who went to Paris to study. About 1860 the first collections began to be formed. John P. Waters of Brooklyn and R. D. Hawley of Hartford, Conn., were pioneers in this important movement.

The difference in the tone quality of a fine violin and that of the ordinary kind is much the same as the difference between the voice of a well-trained singer and that of the ordinary country choir kind, or between raw new wines and old wines. It requires, of course, a little taste to appreciate these differences. But as the ear becomes accustomed to the quality of a good old instrument, it loses its interest in anything else. As a consequence of this, a demand was created for old instruments of all grades.

In this country, while we have a number of very excellent Stradivarius violins, we have only one or two which may be said to approach in value such Strads as the "Messiah," dated 1716, owned in London; the "Betz," owned in Glasgow; the "Tuscan," owned in Manchester, and a number of equally fine ones owned on the continent. The violins of this class are valued according to their perfection of preservation and beauty, as well as for their tone

quality. Of all the Strads now existing, there is but one which has come down to us in a condition which may be described as absolutely perfect. That is to say, its varnish fully intact, no edge nor corner worn and in appearance now. This is the "Messiah." This instrument recently has been sold for \$25,000.

We have a number of very interesting violins of other makes in this country, says Musical America. For example, there is a violin which belonged to Henry IV of France, made by Antonius Hieronius Amati, in 1595, which is now owned by Mr. Pitkin of Hartford. It is in fair preservation, and still bears the royal coat of arms and insignia. The Strad (1772) known as the "Earl of Westmoreland" is owned in New York. The famous "King Joseph" Guarnerius, generally recognized as the most beautiful anywhere, also is owned by a New Yorker.

The Strad (1783) known as the "Edinburgh," which was presented to the duke by Queen Victoria, belongs to a Mr. Partello of Washington, D. C. In Colorado Springs, Colo., Mr. Schley has formed what is perhaps the choicest collection in the country today. It includes a very finely preserved Stradivarius and other splendid specimens. Symphonists play instruments of old makes worth anywhere from \$250 to \$2000, whereas a traveling artist may have an instrument worth many thousands.