The Contemporary Jewish Museum: Stories from the California Gold Rush

Annotated Image Bibliography

Diverse Stories

- 1. Immigrants who arrived in San Francisco prior to 1854.
- 2. Left: Flyer advertising passage to California via Nicaragua in thirty-five days, 1849. Courtesy Library of Congress; Right: The 'Forest of Masts' with Telegraph Hill in the background, c. 1850.
- 3. Portsmouth Square, 1851.
- 4. California Gold Diggers, mining operations on the western shore of the Sacramento River, c. 1849–1852, lithograph. Kelloggs & Comstock (publishers). Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.
- 5. Group of miners, c. 1850s, daguerreotype. Courtesy California Historical Society.
- 6. Washoe Indians—The Chief's Family, 1866, stereographs. Thomas Houseworth & Co. (publisher). Courtesy California Historical Society.

The Wá·šiw (Washoe) count the area around Lake Tahoe as their ancestral homeland and believe the land, language and people are connected and intertwined. During the California gold rush, thousands of miners and immigrants flooded Wá·šiw lands, disrupting the balance and changing the Wá·šiw world forever in only a few short years. The demands of the miners, and the businesses that depended on them, depleted much of the natural resources. The logging industry destroyed many of the forests and scarred the mountains to support the mining industry and the towns that sprang up as a result. As miners settled the Wá·šiw lands, their livestock replaced the native animals. The abundant fishing in Lake Tahoe, once bountiful with the cutthroat trout, was wiped out.

Source: https://washoetribe.us/articleblogpage/735-Page-washoe-tribe-history-past-and-present

- 7. Edward Curtis, Miwok Man at Lake Merced, 1924. Courtesy Library of Congress.
- 8. Results of the Mexican War, 1846–1848, 1919. Chicago, IL: McConnell Map Co. (publishers), 1919. Courtesy Library of Congress.
- 9. Placer miners using a Long Tom at Auburn Ravine 1852. Courtesy Western Mining History.

A Long Tom is a long wooden device balanced on the rocks of the river in such a way that water can course through it, so that the heavier particles of gold sink and become trapped at the bottom.

- 10. Maidu Headmen with Treaty Commissioners, 1851, daguerreotype. Courtesy George Eastman House.
- 11. *Placer Mining Scene*. This 1850s California placer mining scene is unique in that it shows Native Americans working among the miners. Courtesy Western Mining History.
- 12. Isaac W. Baker, *Native American young person*, c. 1851, daguerreotype. Collection of Oakland Museum of California.
- 13. Portrait of Charles and Philena Camden with daughter Ada (foreground) and daughter Grace, held by Kate Camden, c. 1859. Courtesy National Park Service.

A Native American woman, possibly Wintu, known as Kate Camden, lived and worked in the Camden household in Whiskeytown, California, during the gold rush. She was likely born around 1844, but her original name is not known, nor are details about her life before she worked for Charles and Philena Camden.

In 1850, the new State of California's Act for the Government and Protection of Indians codified a subordinate status for Indigenous people, authorizing whites to arrest Native American adults for "vagrancy" and obtain Native American children for "indenture" or apprenticeship, separating them from their families.

Local authorities encouraged armed militia violence against Indigenous people, contributing to the genocide of California Indians. Thousands of displaced Native children became domestic servants and farm laborers.

The girl named Kate was one of them.

Charles Camden came to California for gold, settled on Clear Creek in 1850, and established a successful mining and sawmill operation. Kate joined the Camden household around 1854 under unknown circumstances, at the time of their first daughter Ada's birth, to help take care of the baby and perform housework. Charles Camden wrote to his niece that he was teaching the ten-year-old Kate to read English, which was unusual.

By 1868 the Camdens lived in Oakland, California a majority of the time, only spending summers in Shasta County, and it seems Kate remained in Shasta County to work as a servant in other white homes. The 1870 census indicated that she had attended school and could read and write. Kate died young in 1871. Her headstone

includes the words, "Poor Katie Rest." Having such a headstone demonstrated that someone paid to honor her memory.

Source: https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/kate-camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20American%20woman%2C%20possibly,for%20Charles%20and%20Philena%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%20Camden.htm#:~:text=A%20Native%2

14. Andrew J. Russell, *Hydraulic Gold Mining, Gold Fields*, c. 1869, lantern slide. Courtesy Oakland Museum of California.

This glass slide shows the environmental impact of hydraulic mining. Hydraulic mining is a form of mining that uses high-pressure jets of water to dislodge rock material and move sediment. Hydraulic mining was first used in an area near Nevada City, California in 1853 during the gold rush and spread to other gold mining areas

15. Postal cover for letter in bound to Sacramento, F. Rumrill & Co's Northern Express, c. Aug 1852–1855.

In 1852 Frank Rumrill began operating an express mail service from Marysville up the North Fork of the Yuba River to Fosters Bar. In 1853 routes were extended as far as Downieville. He connected with Wells Fargo at Marysville and likely served as their agent in Marysville. He was also an agent for Gregory's Express at Marysville for a short period in 1853. Rumrill bought out Beck's Express in July 1854, which extended its line north from Downieville into the Gibsonville Ridge area. He sold his express business to Langton's Express in 1855.

- 16. Edward Curtis, Fish-Weir over the Trinity River—Hupa, 1923. A member of the Hupa tribe catching fish using traditional methods. Courtesy Library of Congress.
- 17. Hydraulic Mining of Mountainside, c. 1850s. Courtesy California State Library.

This image shows the environmental impacts of hydraulic mining on a mountainside. Several water cannons have blasted the mountain away. The loose gravel was washed into the flume and sluice boxes, where the heavier gold would settle. The rest of the dirt from the mountainside was directed into streams and rivers.

- 18. Edward S. Curtis, *Quiet waters—Tule River Reservation [Yokuts]*, 1924. Courtesy Library of Congress.
- 19. Middle Fork of the American River being diverted in an elaborate placer mining operation in 1858. Courtesy Western Mining History.
- 20. Old Hilltop Mine, Michigan Bar, c. 1850. Courtesy California State Library.

This image shows the effects of hydraulic mining on a hillside at Michigan Bar in Sacramento County. Michigan Bar was a mining town originally founded in 1849. Hydraulic mining eventually destroyed the original site of the town.

21. Edward S. Curtis, *Hupa Female Shaman*, c. 1923. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Unlike most California Indians, the Hupa tribe was never forced, by the government of the United States, to move off their original lands. The 85,445-acre Hoopa Valley Reservation in Humboldt County is the largest Indian reservation in the State of California. Hupas maintain a strong tribal identity and sense of continuity with the past thanks, in part, to a continued presence in their homeland. They still practice many traditional customs, such as hunting, fishing, acorn gathering, basket and regalia making, and two World Renewal dances. Hupa language is still spoken, particularly by older people.

Source: https://www.kimaw.org/hvt

- 22. Washoe Indians—Valley of Lake Tahoe, 1860/1870. Lawrence & Houseworth (publisher). Courtesy Society of California Pioneers.
- 23. Grand admission celebration. Portsmouth Square, October 29, 1850. Courtesy California Historical Society.
- 24. San Francisco from California Street: drawn from a daguerreotype, c. 1855. Property of Eugene Delessert. Knoedler, M. (publisher), Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

Looking east over city with Yerba Buena Harbor and Island in center, Telegraph Hill and Alcatraz Island at left; various figures in foreground.

- 25. San Francisco, 1860, Hutchings & Rosenfield, Nagel, Louis (publisher). Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.
- 26. Unidentified women who arrived in San Francisco prior to 1854. Courtesy Society of California Pioneers.
- 27. "Miners with cabin," California, c. 1853, daguerreotype. Courtesy Hall Family Foundation.
- 28. A woman in front of an itinerant daguerreotypist's studio, San Francisco, c. 1852. Courtesy Canadian Photography Institute.

Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre invented the daguerreotype in 1839. This first publicly available photographic process was widely used during the gold rush. To make the image, a daguerreotypist polished a sheet of silver-plated copper to a mirror finish; treated it with fumes that made its surface light-sensitive; exposed it in a camera for a few seconds to fifteen minutes; fumed it with mercury vapor then sealed it behind glass.

- 29. Unidentified women who arrived in San Francisco prior to 1854. Courtesy Society of California Pioneers.
- 30. Msr. Kumorth, "Portrait of Luzena Stanley Wilson," San Francisco, 1900. Courtesy PBS. Luzena Wilson (b. ca. 1821) came to California from Missouri with her husband and two children in 1849. The family first settled in Sacramento, where they kept a hotel. After the Sacrameto flood of 1849, they moved to a mining camp, where Mrs. Wilson ran another hotel until 1851, when the Wilsons journeyed to their new farm near modern Vacaville. https://www.loc.gov/item/37008794/
- 31. Sacramento City, from the foot of J. Street, showing I., J., & K. Streets with the Sierra Nevada in the distance, Dec. 20, 1849. Parsons, Charles, artist. Cooper, George Victor, artist.
- 32. Postcard depicting Vaca Valley, California, date unknown. Courtesy University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Published by Stringer & Townsend, c 1850. Courtesy Library of Congress.

33. Jewish Synagogue on Mason St., San Francisco, 1860. Lawrence & Houseworth (publisher). Courtesy Society of California Pioneers.

In April 1851, San Francisco's frontier Jews met to form a permanent congregation and elect officers. They split almost immediately, forming two synagogues. Congregation Sherith Israel followed the Polish traditions and Congregation Emanu-El chose to worship according to German Jewish practices. By the end of the 1850s, so many Jews had left Europe for San Francisco that almost ten percent of the city's population was Jewish—a higher percentage (briefly) than in New York. Both Congregation Sherith Israel and Congregation Emanu-El continue to thrive to this day.

34. The Judengasse in Frankfurt am Main around 1878. Courtesy B. Garrett.

The Jews of Frankfurt were required to live apart from the Christians in a single narrow lane called the Judengasse, or Jews' Alley. This overcrowded street housed

3,000 Jewish inhabitants were who locked into this ghetto on Sundays, Christian holidays, and at night. Frankfurt's Jews could not enter a public garden, visit a coffee shop, or walk more than two abreast in the street.

- 35. Stained glass windows of Congregation Sherith Israel synagogue, San Francisco, 1905.

 The work *Moses Presented the Ten Commandments to the Children of Israel* was designed by Albert Pissis. But instead of standing at Mt. Sinai, the Jewish people are gathered on granite rocks at the gateway to Yosemite, Half Dome and El Capitan in the distance. This is a modern Moses, and California is the Promised Land.
- 36. Adolph Sutro, Jewish mayor of San Francisco from 1895–97, with his collection of rare books. Courtesy Sutro Library.

Born in 1830 in Aachen, which was at the time in the state of Prussia (modern-day Germany), Adolph Sutro came to California at age 20 via a harrowing passage through Panama in 1850. Sutro suffered a number of business reversals during the 1850s, until he finally established himself as a tobacconist. In 1860, when gold and silver were discovered in Virginia City, Nevada, he sold his three tobacco stores and went there alone, while his wife stayed in San Francisco with their three children. He opened a refining mill to extract silver quartz, which yielded a modest profit. But for years he had been incubating a grand idea, and he finally began to execute it: a four-mile tunnel, 1,500 feet below ground, through the Comstock Lode to drain the water from the mines, allowing the silver to be extracted. He spent 15 years working on the project—lobbying Congress, convincing the miners and the State of Nevada to back him, gaining financing from European sources, and fighting William Ralston and the Bank of California, which wanted to get in on the riches and every step of the way tried to derail Sutro. The tunnel was finished in 1878.

Sutro had bought a great deal of San Francisco real estate during the depression of the mid- and late 1870s. He acquired both prime downtown commercial real estate and vast stretches of what was known as the "outside lands," which covered the barren southern and western sections of the city all the way to the ocean. As the city's largest landowner, he held at one point one-twelfth of San Francisco. He built himself a modest home on San Francisco's northwest shoreline in the 1880s. The surrounding gardens were lavish and open to the public free of charge. He also constructed the elaborate Sutro Baths. The largest indoor swimming facility in the world, it could accommodate 10,000 swimmers. Sutro was also an early environmentalist. He protected the seals off nearby Point Lobos and successfully lobbied Congress to pass a law putting the area in trust for the American people.

Although he was one of the city's largest landowners, he was revered by the working class as its champion, in large part because he took on and defeated William

Ralston's predatory Bank Ring. Sutro, a progressive, represented the Populist Party. Despite his wealth, he was considered a man of the people and became the choice to lead a radical third party that would challenge the Southern Pacific Railroad and its political cronies. In 1894 he decided to run for mayor of San Francisco. In his campaign he railed against big business and backed the unions in the violent Pullman strike that was tearing up cities and towns across the country. He got most of the working-class vote and in a field of six received an absolute majority.

His two-year term—as the first Jewish mayor of a major American city—was ambitious but not successful. He supported women's suffrage and opposed the Southern Pacific. However, the city charter gave the mayor little power, and the Board of Supervisors did not have another Populist, so he was blocked every step of the way. After he left office, he returned to his quest to improve San Francisco for the average citizen. His library, one of the largest in the world, was donated to San Francisco State University following his death.

Source: https://www.americanjerusalem.com/characters/adolph-sutro-1830-ae-1898/19

- 37. Levis Strauss Factory on Battery Street, 1880. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co. Archives.
- 38. Levi's Trading Cards, 1899. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co.
- 39. 1880s Levi Strauss & Co. Overall Factory. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co.
- 40. The synagogue of Congregation Emanu-El, Sutter St., 1860s. Courtesy Library of Congress. Built in 1864, the synagogue towered over the skyline and is the oldest Jewish congregation west of the Mississippi, still thriving today. The building pictured here was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake.
- 41. Chinese immigrants aboard the Steam Ship Alaska, 1876. Courtesy Bancroft Library.
- 42. Artist unknown, painting recording the retreat and defeat of the Taiping Northern Expeditionary Forces on February 5, 1854. Courtesy Harvard-Yenching Library. The Taiping Rebellion was a revolt against the Qing dynasty in China that lasted from 1850 to 1864. The Taiping Rebellion eventually failed, leading to the deaths of more than 20 million people.
- 43. Golden Hills News, May 27, 1854. Courtesy Teaching California.

This image features both Cantonese language characters and one column of English text. Publisher's welcome note in English: "Merchants, Manufacturers, Miners, and Agriculturists, come forward as friends, not scorners of the Chinese, so that they may mingle in the march of the world, and help to open America an endless vista of future commerce."

- 44. Isaac Wallace Baker, *Portrait of A Chinese Man*, c. 1853, daguerreotype. Courtesy Oakland Museum of California.
- 45. Joseph B. Starkweather, *Head of Auburn Ravine*, 1852 (colorized image). Courtesy California State Library.

The sluice box, an example of which is pictured here, was a popular tool for gold prospecting. It works by pouring water, or diverting water from a river or stream, through the long box, which then separates gold nuggets from other dirt and rocks by trapping them in the bottom of the box. Chinese immigrants were essential in the construction of sluice boxes.

- 46. Foreign miner's license made out in 1867 in Tuolumne County. Courtesy California State Library.
- 47. Left: Wells Fargo Directory of Chinese businesses, 1878. Courtesy Smithsonian Postal Museum.

Right: Isaiah West Taber, *Chinese Butcher and Grocery Shop*, Chinatown, San Francisco, c. 1880. Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

48. Left: Isaiah West Taber, *Chinese Restaurant*, San Francisco, c. 1880. Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

Right: Fish Alley, Chinatown, postcard, c. 1900. Edward H. Mitchell of San Francisco (publisher). Courtesy Library of Congress.

- 49. The High Secret Town Tressle in 1877. Courtesy California State University at Chico.

 Secret Town Tressle was just east of Gold Run (Today, Gold Run is off Highway 80 in northern Placer County). Chinese laborers at work with pick and shovel wheelbarrows and dump carts, 1877. The photo shows the crude construction methods in use when the first railroad was built across the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- 50. Chinese men at work on the Oregon and California R.R., c. 1870, Continent Stereoscopic Company. Courtesy California State Library.

- 51. Eadweard Muybridge, *John Chinaman on the Union Pacific Railroad*, 1867–1874. Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.
- 52. Arnold Genthe, Street scene, Chinatown, San Francisco, c. 1896. Courtesy Library of Congress.
- 53. "The Chinese Wall Around the United States of America." Thomas Nast's cartoon from 1870 shows European immigrants, already in the United States, pulling up the ladder to stop Chinese immigration. Courtesy KQED.
- 54. Joseph, Emily, Mamie, Frank, and Mary Tape, c. 1884–1885. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Joseph and Mary Tape were Chinese immigrants who came to California alone as children in the 1860s. Mary immigrated around 1868 from somewhere near Shanghai. Arriving solo at the age of eleven, she was one of only forty-six females among 6,707 Chinese immigrants who arrived that year. Like Mary, eleven-year-old Joseph immigrated by himself to the U.S. He may have come on a "credit ticket" (a ticket bought with borrowed money) with the loan to be paid off in California. He came from Taishan, the county from which 90 percent of 19th-century Chinese immigrants originated.

After marrying in 1875, Joseph established himself as a well-regarded businessman in both the white and Chinese communities. They became a prosperous middle-class family and settled in the Cow Hollow neighborhood of San Francisco, which at the time had few Chinese residents.

The Tapes' rise as young immigrants to the middle-class occurred at a time when anti-Chinese sentiment and even violence ran high in California and across the country. Many Americans, particularly those in West Coast states, blamed Chinese workers for lower wages and economic hardship. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibited Chinese immigration for a ten-year period and prevented all Chinese people from becoming naturalized citizens.

The Tapes believed their American-born daughter, Mamie, should be allowed to attend Spring Valley Primary, an all-white school. The principal denied Mamie enrollment into Spring Valley because of her race. In response to this discrimination, the Tapes sued and took the case to the California Supreme Court in 1885.

School officials argued that the Chinese were "dangerous to the well-being of the state," and thus anyone of Chinese descent should not be admitted to San Francisco

public schools. The California Supreme Court ruled in its decision that the 14th Amendment protected the rights of citizens and Mamie, a U.S. citizen, could not be denied the opportunity to attend school. They did however strongly hint that segregated schools were not against the law, which led the San Francisco Board of Education to do just that—build separate schools for Chinese students. Later that year, the Tapes had no choice but to enroll their children at the Chinese Primary School, even though they continued to fight for Mamie's right to attend an integrated school.

Although the case did not win, many years later, the U.S. Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education (1954) expanded on the Mamie Tape's case and made the ruling that school segregation based on race is unconstitutional.

Source: https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2021/05/before-brown-v-education-there-was-tape-v-hurley/

- 55. Isaiah West Taber, *Chinatown, San Francisco, California, Miss Cable's Class of Chinese Girls*, c. 1880s. Courtesy San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.
- 56. Mining near Auburn Ravine, 1852 and unidentified African American man mining for gold in Placer County, 1852. Courtesy California State Library.

Although the miner's name was not recorded, he nonetheless serves as a powerful reminder of the key role of African Americans in the California Gold Rush. In 1849, a small group of African American miners established one of the earliest mining claims in Sacramento County at Negro Bar on the south bank of the American River near what is now Folsom, California. The African American miners mined the claim for nearly a year before moving on to nearby claims further north. The newer claims at Negro Hill and Massachusetts Flat were more permanent in nature and represented some of the first successful mining claims mined by African Americans and other groups. Other mining claims for African Americans would be found around the gold country from Downieville in the north to the southern mines in Calaveras and Mariposa Counties. Source:

https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im/didyouknow1.asp

57. Thomas Gilman next to his cabin, date unknown. Courtesy California State Library.

Thomas Gilman was an enslaved man brought to California during the Gold Rush to mine for his enslaver. He was able to save enough to buy his freedom for \$1,000 (about \$38,000 today) after working for 2-3 years. As a free man, he went on to buy property in Shaw's Flat and lived there until he passed away in 1911.

58. Spanish Flat, 1852. Courtesy California State Library.

This photograph shows four unidentified men, including an African American man, working at a long tom. There is no way to know for sure if he was a free man or one of the more than 200–300 enslaved people brought to California to mine gold.

59. Booklet for California Colored Convention, 1855. Courtesy California African American Museum.

The four California Colored Conventions would be held between 1855 and 1865. The first convened at St. Andrews AME Church in Sacramento on November 20, 1855, with forty-nine delegates representing ten of California's twenty-seven counties. Each Convention named an Executive Committee whose leadership would act as the state's de facto civil rights leadership, guiding strategy for years to come. Although Civil War and Reconstruction would end the formal Conventional movement, subsequent challenges to Jim Crow and beyond would rely on the groundwork laid by these four seminal events.

60. Image of Mary Ellen Pleasant, date unknown. Courtesy Saint Mary's College.

Mary Ellen Pleasant was perhaps the most powerful Black woman in Gold Rush-era San Francisco. Accounts differ on where she was born and whether or not she was enslaved; however, by the 1820s she was in New England, working at a busy shop and likely helping fellow Black Americans to freedom along the Underground Railroad. It was there that she met her first husband, James Smith, a carpenter and contractor. When he died, he left Pleasant a large inheritance.

Pleasant set sail for San Francisco in 1852. In 1850, the U.S. census recorded that approximately 962 "Free Colored" people lived in California—1.5% of California's total population and out of the 962—only 90 were women. Some wise investing increased her savings, and she used it to open laundries and boardinghouses (staffed by mostly Black individuals). She owned properties in San Francisco and Oakland; she eventually bought property in Canada, as well.

Yet despite her considerable wealth, she worked as a housekeeper for some of San Francisco's most prominent merchants. These jobs provided her with free investment advice gleaned from conversations between rich and powerful people. Although she was secretive about her exact financial details, she was a successful investor in real estate and mining stock—two boom industries during the gold rush. In the 1890 census, she listed her profession as "capitalist."

Pleasant's wealth allowed her to give generously to her community. She contributed to the Athenaeum Building, a library and meeting place for the city's Black population; she also supported the Black press and the American Methodist

Episcopal Zion Church. She was not afraid to bring attention to injustice. After a streetcar driver refused to stop for her—even though there was room in the car and she already possessed tickets—she sued the streetcar company for denying service to Black citizens. The case went all the way to the California Supreme Court, which declared segregation on streetcars to be unconstitutional. One historian has asserted that Pleasant's financial and political influence led to the repeal of a law that banned Black testimony in California courts.

Pleasant was also an ardent abolitionist, but she left few records of this part of her life. Sources suggest that in 1858 she sheltered Archy Lee, an enslaved man on the run from a master who wanted to bring him back to Mississippi (and therefore back into slavery). Historians have suggested that she helped other enslaved people escape their captors, essentially establishing California's Underground Railroad. Near the end of her life, she told a reporter that she helped fund the militant abolitionist John Brown's 1859 raid on a federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia—an attempt to spark a slave revolt throughout the South.

In the 1870s, Mary Ellen moved her business and built a new mansion with her business partner Thomas Bell, who was vice president of the Bank of California. She lived there with Thomas, his wife, Teresa, and their children. Although she was a part-owner of the property, Mary Ellen hid her financial status from the public and portrayed herself as the family's domestic servant. She died in 1904.

At her request, her tombstone describes her as "a friend of John Brown."

Source: https://www.nps.gov/people/mary-ellen-pleasant.htm

- 61. Image of Mary Ellen Pleasant, 1901. Courtesy Berkeley Library Digital Collections, University of California.
- 62. San Francisco harbor, 1850 or 1851. Courtesy Library of Congress.
- 63. Left: Kate Camden.

Middle: Mary Goldsmith Prag, 1865. Courtesy Judah Magnes Museum Archives.

Born in Poland in 1846, Mary was among the earliest San Francisco Jewish pioneers, making the long voyage at just six years old with her mother and two siblings. She reached the city on July 7, 1852, having crossed the Atlantic to New York, then continuing to Central America, crossing the Isthmus of Nicaragua by mule and canoe and arriving in California on a crowded steamship. Mary became one of the city's first female schoolteachers—and she served as a teacher, principal, administrator, or member of the San Francisco Board of Education until her death in

1935. She was known for her progressive educational methods, tenacity, and sense of humor. Among Prag's many accomplishments was the passage of the first Teachers' Pension Bill, which guaranteed that women teachers were to be paid the same as men.

Source: https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/prag-mary-goldsmith

Right: Tape family.

64. Immigrants and Native Americans of the gold rush era.