

The Contemporary Jewish Museum: Stories from the California Gold Rush

Annotated Image Bibliography

Innovation and the Growth of a City

1. Eadweard Muybridge, photo of San Francisco, 1878. Courtesy Library of Congress.
2. Portrait of Levi Strauss, c. 1860. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co Archives.
3. San Francisco in 1848. Courtesy Library of Congress.
4. Henry Bainbridge and Geo. W. Casilear, *View of San Francisco*, 1851. Taken from the Western Hill at the foot of Telegraph Hill, looking toward Ringon Point and Mission Valley (drawn from nature), lithograph of Sarony & Major. Geo W. Casilear (publisher). Courtesy Library of Congress.

Bird's-eye view of San Francisco, California, looking southeast across the Bay, with Yerba Buena Island on the far left; also showing camps and travelers in the foreground. Includes key to numbered locations.
5. Left: Officers of Wells, Fargo & Co. stand before the firm's first office at 124 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, 1852. daguerreotype. Courtesy Wells Fargo Bank.

Wells, Fargo & Co.'s first office opened its doors for business in July 1852. Although the pioneer banking house has evolved enormously since it instituted an express line of coaches from San Francisco to Sacramento and Marysville, it clings to the imagery of its early days and maintains its corporate headquarters on virtually the site of this daguerreotype.

Right: Echo of the Pacific, c. 1853. Atwill & Company (publisher). Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.
6. Photograph of the Bella Union Theatre, Portsmouth Square, c. 1850. Courtesy Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library.

The Martinettis were San Francisco's first premier ballet and pantomime troupe, performing dance fairy tales in the 1850s and 1860s. Their repertoire included "La Sylphide," but favored such lighthearted and acrobatic tales as "The Green Monster," "The Magic Trumpet," and "The Red Gnome." One of the first dance companies to tour the continent, they were perhaps the only one to do so by covered wagon, touring the West in nine covered wagons and carrying a 100-seat tent.
7. F. Coombs, Corner of Clay and Montgomery Streets, San Francisco, 1851.

8. Whole plate daguerreotype of San Francisco, California. c. 1852–1853.

This whole plate daguerreotype captures the southeast corner of Front and Sacramento Streets in San Francisco at the height of the gold rush. This busy corner of the city was located close to the waterfront as evidenced by the ship masts just visible behind the “Ship Chandlery” at left. Clearly visible on the buildings is signage representing commission merchants and importers who offered various wares to fortune-seeking miners. The daguerreotype’s exceptional clarity and contrast also reveal many details within the composition, including figures seated in doorways, horse-drawn carts parked in the street between stacks of barrels, and salvaged ship's timber.

Though the intent of the unknown photographer cannot be certain, it seems that the salvaged ship timbers were the reason for framing the photo. At the height of the California Gold Rush, dozens of ships were abandoned in the harbor. One explanation for the ship lumber on the street blocks from the waterfront is the possibility that the beams came from a dismantled ship and were intended for building construction. This could also explain the large pile of stone at the right side of the plate, perhaps indicative of stones for the foundation of new buildings along Sacramento and Front streets. Given the prominence of the building materials in the photograph, the image may have been taken to convey the massive transformation that was occurring in San Francisco at the height of the gold rush. A once sleepy town of a few hundred had within three years become a booming port city and a thriving economic center.

9. One of the Earliest Typewriter Advertisements, Dec. 16, 1875. *The Nation*, XVII. Courtesy Library of Congress.
10. This photograph of a photomechanical print depicts the first telegraph apparatus, used between Baltimore and Washington in 1844. Margins include bust portraits of Benjamin Franklin, Samuel F.B. Morse, Alfred Vail, and Cyrus W. Field. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Photomechanical print inscribed: “The above photograph is a true representation of the earliest instrument constructed for public use and operated upon the experimental telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore in 1844. It was in charge of Alfred Vail Esq. at the Balt. Station, while its counterpart, a similar instrument, was under my charge at Washington.” Saml. F.B. Morse, New York, May 31, 1870.

11. Illustration of Singer Sewing Machine published in 1853. Courtesy Smithsonian Library.

12. The overland pony express / photographed by Savage, Salt Lake City; from a painting by George M. Ottinger. Pony express rider riding by men stringing telegraph wires, 1867. Courtesy Library of Congress.

13. The original telegram handed to General Ulysses S. Grant at the Philadelphia Railroad Station the night of April 14, 1865, notifying him of the assassination of President Lincoln. Courtesy Invaluable.

"Dated Wash(ington) 14 1865. --- Red'd, Philadelphia (no time recorded) To Lt Genl Grant -- An attempt has been made tonight to assassinate the Presdt & secy Seward & has probably succeeded as both have been wounded suffered mortally - The Presidt was shot in Fords Theatre, this is for your information to put on your guard - -- (Signed) Jno (John) A(aron) Rawlins chf of staff."

14. Colton George Woolworth, Map of the United States of America, 1857. New York: Colton, J.H., & Co. Courtesy Library of Congress.

15. First and Folsom, 1865. Courtesy Society of California Pioneers.

Image of the Miners' Foundry and Machine Works on First Street, just north of Folsom Street, in San Francisco. The iron working industry had its origins in the American West less than a mile from here, when in the summer of 1849 James Donahue rigged up a simple charcoal forge for a smithy. With the rise of hydraulic and hard rock mining, the demand for castings soared, and the foundries and machine shops of San Francisco quickly earned a national reputation for fabricating superior mining machinery.

16. Map of routes for a Pacific railroad, compiled to accompany the report of Hon. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War. Outline sketch map of the United States west of the Mississippi River designed to show the relationship of the proposed railroad routes. Washington, DC, 1855. Courtesy United States War Department.

17. Frank Beard, *Does not such a meeting make amends?*, May 29, 1869, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.

Description This print shows an allegory that symbolically links the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit in Utah. Native Americans and buffalo are fleeing in the foreground as two trains with large hands extending from the locomotives, labeled "San Francisco" and "New York," approach each other to connect the transcontinental railroad.

18. "Through to the Pacific," c. 1870. Currier & Ives (publisher). Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

19. Portrait of Jacob Davis, c. 1870-1880. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co.
20. Downtown Reno, Nevada looking south on Virginia Street, c. 1870. Courtesy Library of Congress.
21. The mining business in four pictures, c. 1850s. Britton & Rey (lithographer and publisher). Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.
22. Selection of rivets, date unknown
23. Levi's jeans with rivets, c. 1880s. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co.
24. California miners wearing Levi's jeans, 1880. Courtesy Getty Images.
25. Patent issued to Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis, May 20, 1873. Courtesy National Archive
26. Advertisement for Levi Strauss & Co. patented riveted clothing, 1873. Courtesy Nevada Historical Society
27. Employees at the Levi Strauss factory, ca. 1870-1880. Courtesy Levi Strauss & Co.
28. I. W. Taber, Levi Strauss & Co., San Francisco, 1880. Courtesy Library of Congress.
29. Early view of Woodward's Garden showing the entrance to the amusement park on Mission and 13th streets. The park, which opened in 1866 and closed in the 1890s, attracted thousands of people. Date unknown. Courtesy San Francisco Chronicle Archives.
30. Bird's-eye view of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 1892. Courtesy Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.
31. Clay Street Hill Cable Car at Clay Street and Van Ness Avenue, c. October 1877. Andrew Hallidie, inventor of the cable car, stands on the open-air cable car between two seated women. Courtesy SFMTA Photo Archive.
32. Cable car on Union Square with background showing various banners advertising The Contemporary Jewish Museum's original exhibition of *Levi Strauss: A History of American Style*, c. 2019. Courtesy San Francisco Chronicle.