

“Daguereotyping,” (James Pierpont, San Francisco) 19 March 1850

(keywords: James Lord Pierpont, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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Published in:

[Daily] *Alta California* (San Francisco) 1:68 (19 March 1850): n.p. (second page of issue).

DAGUERREOTYPING.—One of the prettiest specimens of the Daguereotypist’s art which we have seen in this country, was exhibited to us on Saturday—the product of the skill of Mr. Pierpont, who has a gallery over W. A. Woodruff’s in Clay street. It was a view of the plaza and eastern side of San Francisco, including the bay with all its shipping, the islands in the harbor, and the far off snow-capped hills. In the square are seen groups of persons conversing, carts and everything which pertains to every-day life in the plaza of San Francisco. We believe Mr. Pierpont is quite as clever with his portraits as with his landscape views, and if he is we congratulate him upon the skill he has acquired in his art.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

Advertisements by James Pierpont appear in the *Sacramento Transcript* from 11 July 1850 through 18 March 1851.¹ Pierpont apparently ceased his daguerreian activities after the destruction of his Clay street gallery in the 4 May 1851 fire.

Another text discussing Pierpont is found in “Daguereotypes,” *Daily Alta California* (San Francisco) 1:163 (9 July 1850): n.p. (second page of issue).²

Pierpont is listed as among those suffering loss in the 4 May 1851 fire. His loss was stated as \$500. See “Terrible Conflagration,” *Alta California* (San Francisco) “Northerner and New Orleans” steamer edition (15 May 1851): n.p.

After leaving California, Pierpont wrote and published the humorous song, “The Returned Californian,” which tells not of returning with riches, but tells of fleeing from the many creditors back in California.³

In August 1857, Pierpont wrote and published the song, “One Horse Open Sleigh.”⁴ Two years later it was re-released with the title “Jingle Bells, or The One Horse Open Sleigh.”⁵ An article regarding Pierpont was published by Margaret Hall in *Yankee Magazine* 1963 (or earlier). The present editor has yet to locate the article. Pierpont is reportedly buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia.⁶

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/advert/N8500006_PIERPONT-AD_SAC-TRANSCR_1850-10-02.pdf

2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8500005_PIERPONT_DAC_1850-07-09.pdf

3. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/sm1852.501530>

4. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/sm1857.620520>

5. http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/Biographies/james_lord_pierpont.htm

6. John Walker Guss, *Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemetery* (Charleston: Arcadia, 2004)

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URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8500007_PIERPONT_DAC_1850-03-19.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2010-02-02 / Last revision: 2010-12-06

Citation information: [Daily] *Alta California* (San Francisco) 1:68 (19 March 1850): n.p. (second page of issue).

Prepared from: imaged original text from *California Digital Newspaper Collection*. (<http://cdnc.ucr.edu>)

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