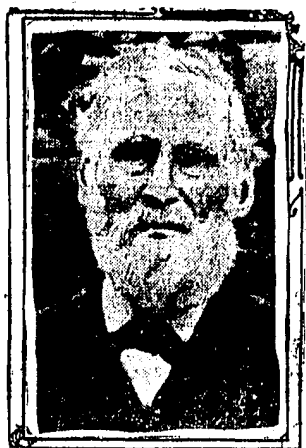


OAKLAND MOURNS JAMES E. BLETHEN

Former Mayor and Pioneer
Citizen Passes Away at
Age of Eighty-One.



FORMER MAYOR JAMES E. BLETHEN
OF OAKLAND, WHO DIED YES-
TERDAY.

OAKLAND, June 23.—Flags are at half-mast on all the city buildings to-day, to note the passing away of a former Mayor of Oakland and a pioneer of '49, James E. Blethen, who died this morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. D. Dolbier, on East Sixteenth street, lacking just two days of being 81 years of age. Death was due to the infirmities of age.

Ex-Mayor Blethen was born in Maine on June 25, 1828. He was raised in Dover, and learned the trade of a carpenter. Lured to this Coast by the gold excitement of '49, he worked his way as ship's carpenter on board the Golconda, which made the voyage around the Horn, arriving in San Francisco on November 21 of that year.

Finding mining not so attractive as he thought, he went into business in San Francisco, where he continued until 1861, when he sold out and purchased a ranch, where he lived until 1868. He then bought the Pioneer Mill, in Oakland, at the foot of Broadway. This was at the time the largest establishment of its kind in Oakland.

Ex-Mayor Blethen was twice married, first to Miss Lydia N. Fall, who died in 1867, and by whom he had six children, and Miss Georgetta W. Adams, daughter of a pioneer family of this city, who died in 1900, leaving three children: George W. Blethen, Mrs. F. D. Dolbier and Mrs. George A. Scott. There are two surviving grandchildren in California, eleven in New Hampshire and three great grandchildren.

He was always identified with the growth and progress of Oakland, taking an active part in public affairs. He was elected Mayor of this city on the Republican ticket in 1881 and succeeded himself in the office in 1892, it being the custom at that time to elect the Mayor yearly.

He belonged to Oakland Lodge, No. 188, of Masons; Orion Lodge, No. 153, of Odd Fellows; and Lodge, No. 3, of United Workmen. He was especially interested in the Odd Fellows, whose lodge meetings he attended up to his last illness.

The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon at the Masonic temple, under the auspices of the Masons. After the services there, the Odd Fellows will take charge of the body and will conduct the services at Mountain View cemetery.

If the Geary-street road should be owned and operated municipally jobs would crop up in all parts of the city, to secure like roads at the expense of the San Francisco general taxpayer.