

**HISTORY OF THE BERKELEY
SCHOOLS: AN ACCOUNT
OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM
OF BERKELEY**

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History of the Berkeley Schools: An Account of the School System of Berkeley by S. D. Waterman

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S. D. WATERMAN

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"Westward the course of empire takes its way,
The first four acts already passed,
The fifth shall close the drama with the day,
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

—*Bishop Berkeley*

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By

S. D. Waterman



An account of the School System of Berkeley from its establishment to date, with a detailed presentation of the special features in the various schools

Berkeley, California

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
I	Historical Sketch	7
II	The First Board of Education.....	11
III	Rented Rooms	16
IV	The Berkeley High School.....	18
V	The Superintendents	44
VI	The Berkeley School Board.....	47
VII	Bonds and Special Tax.....	50
VIII	Music	54
IX	Drawing	58
X	Manual Training	60
XI	High School Buildings.....	63
XII	McKinley School	64
XIII	Frances E. Willard School.....	69
XIV	Washington School.....	72
XV	Edison School.....	77
XVI	Franklin School	79
XVII	Luther Burbank School.....	81
XVIII	Whittier School.....	83
XIX	Garfield School.....	85
XX	Lincoln School	87
XXI	Le Conte School.....	90
XXII	Oxford School.....	92
XXIII	Jefferson School.....	95
XXIV	John Muir School.....	98
XXV	Hillside School	99
XXVI	Hawthorne School.....	100
XXVII	Columbus School	104
XXVIII	Emerson School	105
XXIX	Longfellow School.....	106
XXX	Seventh Street School.....	108
XXXI	Night Schools.....	110
XXXII	School Gardens.....	115
XXXIII	Miscellaneous	117
XXXIV	Our Flag.....	123
XXXV	The Carnegie Library	125
XXXVI	Names of Teachers	132
XXXVII	Berkeley High School War Record.....	139
XXXVIII	Berkeley High School Graduates.....	142

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FOREWORD

I have not written this sketch of the Berkeley schools expecting any great financial returns, but with the hope that it may be of interest to those who are now in the department, and that it may be of value later as a source of information about the growth and development of the school system of which we are so justly proud.

The task of writing the history since the incorporation of the town in 1878 has been a simple one, as the records of the Board of Education and the files of the daily papers have been available.

It has not been so easy to secure data for the period preceding the incorporation. The statements are sometimes incomplete, but as far as they are given they are reliable. Among those who have given information about the schools of this early period, I must mention especially, Mrs. Emma S. Wilkes, Mrs. Adelaide Marquand, Mr. Charles McClain, Mr. A. H. Broad and Mr. Thomas Hann.

I have made use of one or two short quotations from Prof. Jones' History of the University of California for which due credit has been given.

If the public derive as much pleasure from the reading of this history as the author has derived from the writing of it, he will feel amply repaid.

S. D. WATERMAN

HISTORY OF THE BERKELEY SCHOOLS



CHAPTER I HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1820, the last Spanish governor of California, who was likewise the first Mexican governor, conferred San Antonio Rancho upon Don Luis Peralta and, in 1842, Don Luis divided this into four equal parts, giving one part to each of his four sons. The portion extending from Temescal Creek to the present Contra Costa line fell to his son Jose.

The earliest American settlers upon this tract came in 1852 when F. K. Shattuck, Geo. M. Blake and William Hillegass acquired a part of it by purchase and commenced farming on quite an extensive scale on land included in the present site of Berkeley. Alameda County was organized in 1853 from parts of Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties.

The present site of the University was selected by Henry D. Durant in 1858, and in 1860, the trustees decided that this should be the permanent site. Mention is made of this, because the location of the University and its growth have made the city of Berkeley what it is. Many people have chosen this city for their homes in order to have, for their children, the advantages offered by the University, without any great expense.

The first settlement was at Ocean View, or West Berkeley, and the center of business and population was at the corner of University and San Pablo Avenues. It would doubtless have remained in that vicinity but for the influence of the University.

The name, Berkeley, was suggested by Mr. Frederic Billings, one of the trustees. After quoting the well known lines of Bishop Berkeley,—

"Westward the course of empire takes its way,
The first four acts already passed,
The fifth shall close the drama with the day,
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

he suggested the name, Berkeley, for the new settlement. This suggestion was taken by his associates and several years later when the town was incorporated, this name was given to it.

Previous to the establishment of the University site, San Pablo Avenue, running north and south, was the only road leading to Oakland, while University Avenue was the only street running east and west. Between San Pablo Avenue and the Bay the straggling settlement of Ocean View sprang up and after the overland railroad was completed in 1869, grew quite rapidly. These two settlements were united and incorporated as the "Town of Berkeley" in 1878. Previous to this time, Berkeley proper was a small scattered settlement. There were a few houses on what is now known as Telegraph Avenue, then known as Choate Street, near the entrance to the University Campus, at the end of the "Dinky" car line. There was a small settlement in the vicinity of Berkeley Station and a few scattered residences were found here and there. The principal settlement at the time of incorporation was at Ocean View.

"We were a long way from San Francisco. We had either to follow the pace of a bob-tailed car to Oakland—a trip of over an hour—and thence to the city, or else take an omnibus which had the unpleasant habit of capsizing and breaking collar bones and arms. The destination of this omnibus was the ferry at Ocean View, or Jacob's Landing,—otherwise West Berkeley. From this point we embarked upon a steamer that was very uncertain as to the time of starting and still more uncertain as to the time of arriving."

Later, our communication with Oakland was greatly improved in two ways. One of these was by the way of Golden Gate by Southern Pacific steam car,—thence on San Pablo Avenue by horse car to Fortieth Street, and thence by cable car to Seventh and Broadway, Oakland. The other route was by a steam "Dinky" from the University grounds to Temescal at Forty-eighth Street, and thence by horse car to Oakland. The trip by either of these two routes consumed fully an hour. Close connection was made