

Mission and San Antonio (now Brooklyn) was a town before there was a solitary settler in Oakland. Indeed, for a year or two after the settlement of Oakland, San Antonio was in advance. It had formerly been an embarcadero from which were shipped the hides and horns collected in the adjoining country.

The first settlement was in 1851, and the original inhabitants were H. W. Carpentier, Edson Adams and A. J. Moon. By these persons the land was taken in possession, and through their efforts public attention was first drawn to the location. Charles Minturn became interested with them, and placed upon the San Antonio Creek a steamboat that was ample to accommodate the business between Oakland and San Francisco. The town, in 1852, had no local business and no means of self-support. On account of the pleasantness of the trip over the Bay, and the delightful groves, numerous visitors were attracted, and a few gentlemen of means soon purchased land upon which they erected dwelling-houses. At this early date the present condition of the city was foreshadowed. It was a suburban resort. There were but few people in the place in 1852, but enough to require a public school and a city wharf. The Act of Incorporation vested in the Town Trustees the power to make these improvements, and also the right to dispose of the water front, which in the same Act was ceded by the State to the city. The first Board of Trustees, consisting of A. W. Barrell, A. J. Moon, Edson Adams and A. Marier, (H. W. Carpentier was elected, but failed to qualify) by a series of acts transferred to H. W. Carpentier the title to the water front, in return for which he was to erect a public school house and build a wharf at the foot of Broadway, the latter to cost twenty thousand dollars. The subsequent history of this transaction furnishes an example of the most persistent and interesting litigation that can be found in the records of the several courts. The school house then built still remains in its original form, and preserves its ancient appearance, but it has been removed to the corner of Market and Seventh streets, and is now occupied as an African Church.

For two years following, the town continued to grow, and became a center of trade for the Mexicans living in the adjoining country. The lands in the Oakland Valley were brought under cultivation, and considerable quantities of produce were exported.

In the spring of the year 1853, the Oakland College School was established by Rev. Henry Durant, now President of the State University. A frame building on the northeast corner of Broadway and Fifth streets, that had been prior to that used as a hotel, was rented, and President Durant commenced teaching school with a class of three pupils. This school, planted in the Oakland forests in 1853, has grown and expanded, and has at last been developed into the University of California, the peer of any institution of learning in America. The establishment of the school was not a private enterprise, undertaken for pecuniary purposes. It was the result of a correspondence commenced as early as 1849, upon the founding of a college, and it was with that purpose in view that President Durant made his humble beginning. Other and excellent literary